Entertainment / A2-3

Dolphy celebrates 77th birthday, still RP's top comic

■ Business / B1

Chowking eyes India, Middle East to expand overseas by 17 stores

■ Sports / A25

RP 5 beats Japan

■ Metro / A23

Suspects in killing of ex-Masbate solon now in police custody

■ Lifestyle / C2

Perfect fit: Stylish couple Cecille and Louie Ysmael

House pushing Con-ass despite Senate objections

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

DESPITE vehement objections to Charter change in the Senate, the House of Representatives is pushing for the convening of both chambers of Congress into a constituent assembly (Con-ass) to amend the Constitution.

HOUSE/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Try 'kamote' fries, DOH urges fast-food chains

By Christian Esguerra

HOW WOULD you like "kamote," or sweet potatoes, for your fries? Cereals for your breakfast meal? Or salad sans your favorite thousand Island

TRY/ A4

WALA NA RIN SOFT-DRINKS!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, July 29, 2005 ★★ 78 pages / 9 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 231 P18

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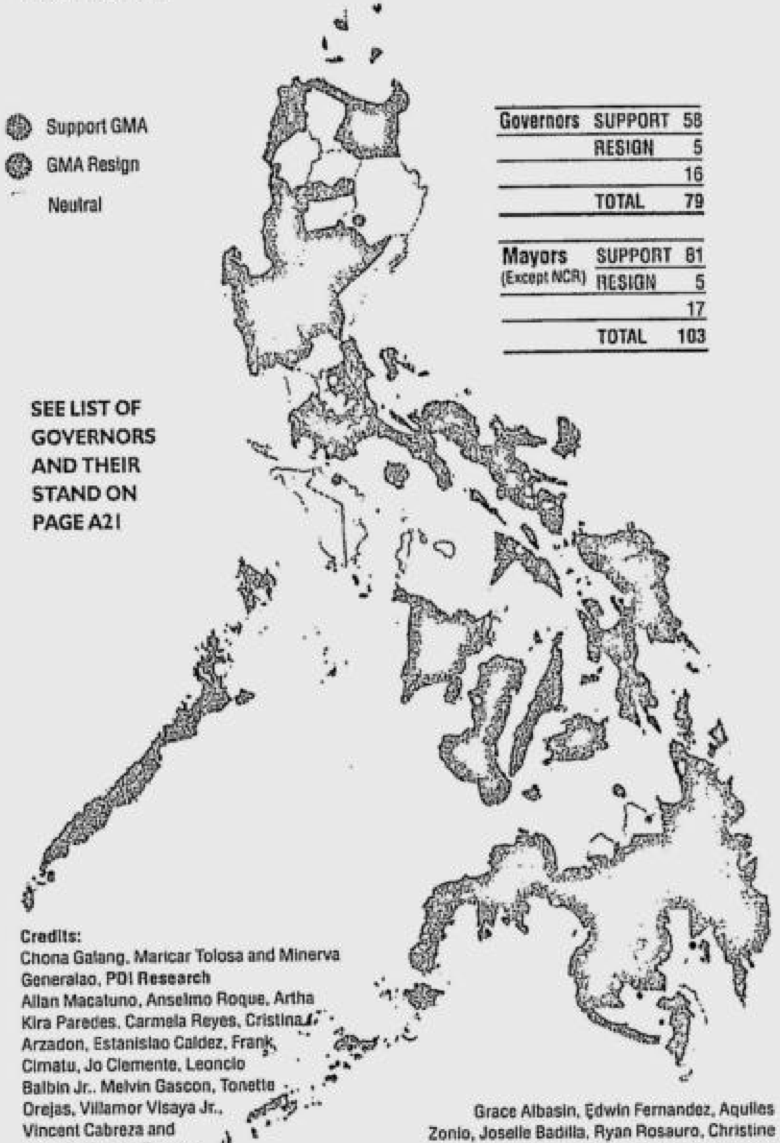
PROFILE OF RP POLITICAL MAP

(As of July 28, 2005)



Governors	SUPPORT	58
	RESIGN	5
		16
	TOTAL	79

Mayors (Except NCR)	SUPPORT	81
	RESIGN	5
		17
	TOTAL	103

SEE LIST OF GOVERNORS AND THEIR STAND ON PAGE A21

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Ex-gov to testify on 'Jueteng-gate'

Senate to call Bishop Cruz's new witness

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE will summon the new "explosive" witness of Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who could directly link President Macapagal-Arroyo to "jueteng" payoffs, Sen. Manuel Villar said yesterday.

"We don't have a date yet for the next hearing. But one thing's certain: We will not conclude the investigation if there are new witnesses. We will continue with the hearing," said Villar, co-chair of the Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers racket.

Cruz said Monday that the new witness could testify on a meeting between the President and 13 regional directors of the Commission on Elections at a hotel in Metro Manila where they were handed P2 million each allegedly by Lilia Pineda, the wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, before the 2004 elections.

The witness, a defeated gubernatorial candidate in the last election and member of a known political dynasty, has been in the United States for months.

A source close to the witness clarified that the alleged payoff did not happen in a five-star hotel but in the La Vista residence of the First Couple in Quezon City.

The source said Pineda paid the witness a visit on Wednesday in Los Angeles, California, after Cruz's revelations, to convince him not

EX-GOV/ A21

OBSERVING A BIRTHDAY, the first without FPJ, Susan Roces tears up during Mass at the Quiapo church on Thursday. From there she proceeded to visit her husband's grave at the North Cemetery.

LYN RILLON

Susan's wish on first birthday without FPJ: GMA step down

By Fe Zamora

HE ALWAYS said it with roses on the birthday of his beloved.

He is gone now but the followers of the late Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday carried on with the tradition. They gifted his widow, Susan Roces, with a big bouquet of long-stemmed white roses to mark her 64th birthday.

"FPJ never missed giving Susan a bunch of white roses on her birthday. We are just continuing the tradition," Rez Corez, leader of the National Coalition of Concerned Volunteers for Fernando Poe Jr. (NCCV-FPJ), said.

Roces, celebrating her birthday for the first time without FPJ to share it with, had one ardent wish: That President Macapa-

SUSAN'S/ A4

GMA finds comfort zone outside Metro

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, fighting her toughest political battle over allegations she cheated her way back into office last year, has found formidable allies in the provinces.

But as she increasingly seeks support from officials outside the capital, they are also testing the limits of their powers and tapping widespread anger at "imperial Manila."

"Tagalogs are dragging us down with their stupidity," a reader who gave his name as Josh Tristan said in a text message printed on the opinion pages of the Cebu Daily News.

"We should be independent. We don't need the Tagalogs and we don't want to be ruled by them."

Powerful provincial allies such as Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson of Ilocos Sur and Gov. Emmanuel Piñol of North Cotabato, have threatened to form independent states if Ms Arroyo is removed from power through extra-constitutional means.

Visayan governors went one step further this month, declaring a "Visayas Republic," a day after about 30,000 anti-Arroyo protesters marched in Makati's business district and called for the President's resignation.

"We are not just making a simple declaration," Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia told Reuters.

"We're also sending a clear message that we are no longer allowing a few in imperial Manila to dictate which direction our country should take."

Garcia boasts her province has a P2.1-billion budget surplus and zero debt, compared to a vast budget deficit and debt pile at the

GMA FINDS/ A21

'Walls of defenses' to crush impeach raps

By Philip C. Tubeza

AS LAWMAKERS debated House rules on impeachment, President Macapagal-Arroyo's lawyer yesterday said his client had "walls of defenses and evidence to crush charges against her and allow her to stay in power.

Opposition lawmakers filed an impeachment complaint on Monday against Ms Arroyo on charges of election fraud, large-scale corruption and other crimes. They urged her to resign to avoid a painful Senate trial, claiming they have plenty of witnesses and "tons" of documentary evidence to bring her down.

Cibac party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva said despite heated discussions, lawmakers expected the impeachment rules would be adopted by Monday or Tuesday next week.

"The majority and minority feel that within a month's time, we would be able to have impeachment hearings," Villanueva said.

"We are ready since we have a lot of credible witnesses to present. They might be surprised because these are also big-time witnesses," he said. "We are confident that these would convince our colleagues that the com-

WALLS/ A20

47% of Filipinos don't like GMA, says Pulse Asia

NEARLY one in two Filipinos, or 47 percent, says President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is facing the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old administration, is unacceptable as a leader now, according to results of a nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia Inc. this month.

Ms Arroyo's rating as an unacceptable leader is up from 42 percent in June, Pulse Asia said yesterday.

The polling firm said no one commissioned it to conduct the survey.

About one in three Filipinos, or 34 percent, says that the resignation or impeachment of Ms Arroyo on vote-rigging charges and the holding of snap elections is best for the country torn by political turmoil, the independent pollster said in a statement.

This scenario was not on the list of five scenarios that Pulse Asia presented to respondents in its nationwide survey in June.

When added to the list in the July survey, the number of respondents saying that anoth-

47% OF FILIPINOS/ A21

KIDS, HANG IN THERE. Shielding themselves from the political quake caused by their feuding and fussing elders, but not necessarily their betters? They might as well be as these Grade 1 students of Marcelo H. del Pilar in Cubao, Quezon City, go through an earthquake drill on Thursday morning.

JOAN BONDOC

President says sorry for media snafu

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday apologized for the snafu in her first media image-building blitz but she stood by her press secretary's decision to shoo away foreign journalists and limit questioning to friendly reporters.

"I'm really sorry about that," Ms Arroyo said in an interview with GMA television.

The President said that according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who organized the event on Wednesday, "it was clear that the press conference was for the Malacañang Press Corps."

She said she would meet with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) on another date.

Bunye also apologized to the foreign press for the "inconvenience."

The international journalists were driven

PRESIDENT/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will have widespread rains while the rest of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/29/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Rains
Baguio	Rains	**Roxas**	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

Palace: Don't look for Garci here

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HE MIGHT be President Macapagal-Arroyo's phone pal but Malacañang yesterday told Congress not to look for the missing Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano at the Palace.

"We don't have any information (on Garcillano) but I'm sure authorities in charge of accounting for missing persons are looking for him," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a briefing.

Congress wants to find Garcillano in order to serve him a subpoena to appear in House of Representatives on Aug. 3. Garcillano is being sought to shed light on the "Hello…Garci" tape where the President had admitted to talking with an election official widely believed to be Garcillano when the votes were still being counted last year.

Bunye even suggested that Congress try the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to verify rumors that has fled abroad.

"They (the BID) have a mandate under the law and they have to fulfill their respective mandate," Bunye said.

But the secretary of the Department of Justice, which counts the immigration bureau among the offices under it, said it's not the government's burden to present him to Congress.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez admitted that the National Bureau of Investigation, another agency under the DOJ, had been having a hard time locating Garcillano, who is accused of conniving with the President to rig the last elections.

Interviewed by reporters, Gonzalez said it was not only the government's responsibility to locate Garcillano. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

Sona, Cha-cha a diversion by GMA – Hyatt 10

By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

THE HYATT 10 group of key administration officials that called for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign yesterday accused the President of using charter change initiatives to evade persistent questions about her credibility and trustworthiness.

They also described the President's State of the Nation Address as a "disappointment," allegedly designed to suit the political agenda of those whose support she needed to survive.

"It seems that she has decided instead to stymie all efforts in uncovering the truth by embracing the proposed Charter change to distract her accusers and divert the nation's energies toward the untimely debates on Cha-cha," the group said in a statement.

The group withdrew support from the President last July 8, claiming that her decisions had lately been based on her wanting to stay in office, thereby compromising some of the government's essential economic programs.

Their resignation call was followed the same day by former President Aquino, Senate President Franklin Drilon and the influential Makati Business Club.

Yesterday, Budget Secretary Romulo Neri, addressing the first press conference of the administration's new economic team, said the business community should detach itself from politics and focus on purely business affairs if they want to help move the economy forward.

"It's about time the business sector stops being too obsessed with politics," Neri said at the forum held at the Development Bank of the Philippines in Makati.

Neri, who was previously economic planning secretary, said the business community could help in creating a better economic environment, which would primarily benefit itself, if it did not add to the political noise.

He said the problem with the Philippines was that too many people, including businessmen, are dabbling in politics.

"The Makati Business Club for instance should stick to business … they are not good politicians," Neri said.

The MBC had issued a statement calling for the President's resignation but it was questioned by some members who said it only reflected the position of the organization's officers.

Delayed for so long

As for the feasibility of Congress working on the charter change initiative while it has yet to pass needed fiscal reform measures, Neri said the government should not be deterred in pushing for charter change just because of the short-term needs of legislating fiscal reform laws.

He said constitutional amendments have been delayed for so long because of misconceptions that short-term problems should be addressed first.

"Charter change and fiscal reform measures should and can be pursued together," said Neri.

Former senator Francisco Tatad, meanwhile, said the President's "non-state of the nation address" on Monday has only advanced forward the campaign to oust her.

"Her attitude compels the various forces to simultaneously pursue other modes," Tatad said in a statement.

He said the President "may have closed the door to a purely constitutional solution to her legitimacy crisis by refusing to address the legitimacy issue in her yet most important statement to Congress."

Tatad warned that the longer Ms Arroyo stays in office the higher the risk of the supposedly neutral military to intervene to oust her from power.

At this point,"there may be clear and sufficient ground for the military to take that fateful step," he said.

"Some have suggested that whatever method that could get Arroyo out the soonest should be adopted, so long as it is supported by the people. This could include military intervention with popular support," he said.

Tatad said the reference to charter change was "apparently not meant for the nation, but only for Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos and their Lakas colleagues."

"It's a political crumb thrown in the direction of JDV and FVR to maintain their support of her crumbling regime. They appeared the most ecstatic in that rambunctious crowd," he said.

"Charter change should be the first order of the day after Arroyo vacates the presidency. But she cannot use it as a solution to her legitimacy crisis," Tatad said. *With a report from Jerry Esplanada*

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Gonzalez dared to prove party-list pork funded rallies

GONZALEZ

LEFTIST legislators yesterday challenged Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to show proof that the party-list representatives had used their pork barrel allocations to fund rallies against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said that Gonzalez, who called for an audit of the pork-barrel funds of the leftist legislators on Wednesday, has not shown proof of such fund diversion and probably had no evidence to support his allegations.

He said that what Gonzalez had brandished on Wednesday were public documents showing allocations for public service projects.

The justice secretary claimed that representatives from Bayan Muna, Akbayan, Anakpawis and the Gabriela party-list groups received up to P25 million each.

"Even if we grant that all the figures he is citing is correct, Gonzalez still has to prove his allegations that a part or all the amounts were malversed or diverted," Ocampo said in a statement.

He called Gonzalez an *intriguero* (intriguer) who is making the allegations against Ocampo and the others to supposedly ingratiate himself with the President.

"It is absolutely 'crazy' to make such claims without proof and with foreknowledge of the character of the public funds he cites, especially for a lawyer, a former House deputy speaker and now justice secretary," he said.

"Gonzalez should stop this madness. He should file charges against whoever he perceives as lawbreakers and not assault the public with putrid and baseless allegations," he added.

In a press conference, Ocampo and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said that the funds they used for protest rallies came from their members and private donors, including the business community.

"Mrs. Arroyo might be surprised to learn that some of the funds for the rallies come from the business sector," Maza said.

She said that Gabriela has for the past 20 years raised funds from solicitations, legal trusts and voluntary donations from members.

"We have tin cans in our office where we put in P1 a day. That has been our standard operating procedure for the last 20 years," Maza said.

Akbayan party-list Representatives Etta Rosales, Mario Aguja and Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel said that Gonzalez's charge was "an unfounded allegation unworthy of a public official holding an office that supposedly stands for impartiality and fairness."

"We implore Gonzalez not to malign the right of the organized, self-sustaining people's organizations marching in the streets to seek redress for our grievances and demand accountability from government," they said in a joint statement.

Philip C. Tubeza

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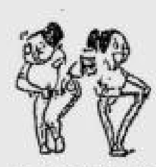
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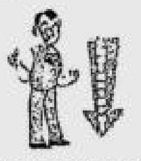
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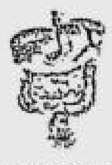
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Susan's wish on first birthday…

From page A1

gal-Arroyo step down.

"Only until then will the country be able to move on," said Roces, who is favored to sit in a post-Arroyo caretaker government proposed by the opposition.

She surprised churchgoers at the Quiapo church where she attended the 10 a.m. Mass with her daughter Mary Grace, and niece, movie actress Sheryl Cruz.

From Quiapo, Roces visited the tomb of her husband at the North Cemetery in La Loma, Manila, where colleagues from the movie industry and her husband's loyal fans were gathered.

Unifying factor

The various stalwarts from the fragmented opposition, who consider Roces an "inspiration" and "unifying factor," were not around, though.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who was Poe's campaign manager during the May 2004 elections, showed up much later.

Strictly for family

"We understand she wants to keep this day strictly for the family," Cortez said. An *asalto* was hosted by her close friends in her Greenhills residence at midnight yesterday.

The NCCV, which launched a signature campaign early this year urging Roces to be their "guiding light," held their own *salo-salo* at their headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

The volunteers had prepared a poem for Roces, which they wanted to read to her if she joined them yesterday evening.

Asked for her comments on GMA's State of the Nation Address during the joint session of Congress on Monday afternoon, Roces expressed her disappointment. She noted Ms Arroyo's Sona lacked substance, saying she avoided real concerns.

FERNANDO POE

LYN RILLON

A MONUMENT for 'Da King,' the columnar structure as well as the widow.

By way of explanation, Roces made reference to a favorite metaphor of hers, that of the housewife and the way she manages her household.

"When housecleaning, you do not sweep dirt under the rug," Roces said. "This is never done."

Interested in presidency

In a visit to Davao City last week, Roces hinted she was interested in the presidency but only after the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

Roces also topped the nominees for a council to head a post-Arroyo caretaker government proposed by the broad coalition Unity for Truth and Justice.

Roces had accused Ms Arroyo of stealing the presidential election from her husband. Her suspicions were bolstered with the coming out of the controversial "Hello Garci" tapes last month.

The tapes had recorded alleged conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano after the May elections. One of the recorded conversations purportedly showed a woman's voice similar to the President's telling Garcillano to ensure that she maintains her lead of not less than one million votes.

Puzzled

Roces said she listened closely to the Sona as she was puzzled by what she heard.

"I didn't understand what it was all about," she said candidly. "It wasn't the 'state' of the nation. She didn't address questions that needed urgent answers like poverty, the rising cost of living or the truth behind the tapes that we've all heard."

According to Roces, Ms Arroyo resorted to sweeping generalizations about the economy, unemployment, education, and national security, then concentrated on pushing for political reform, particularly Charter change.

No urgent need

"I don't think there's an urgent need for Charter change," Roces said. "We should first resolve current concerns before presenting other issues, especially something as major as changing the Constitution or the government system," she said.

Bunye hopes Susan's wish comes true

By Christine O. Avendaño

A MERE birthday greeting would have sufficed. But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had to overdo it.

Bunye wished Roces a "happy birthday" yesterday but added one more wish that seemed inappropriate under the circumstances.

"We hope it's a happy birthday and we hope her wishes come true," Bunye told reporters who reminded him that the widow of Fernando Poe Jr., and one of today's most strident critics of President Arroyo that Roces wishes for Ms Arroyo to step down.

To which Bunye said: "I don't know. Anyway, we hope she has a happy birthday."

Try 'kamote' fries, DOH urges fast-food chains

From page A1

dressing?

Expect a revolution—or "reformulation"—in your favorite fast-food chain's menu as the Department of Health steps up its campaign to promote a healthy lifestyle among Filipinos.

The DOH yesterday reiterated its appeal to popular fast-food centers to offer low-sodium, low-cholesterol, and low-fat meals in an effort to slow down the number of people at risk of acquiring cardiovascular diseases.

In March, the DOH, together with other affiliates, sounded off this concern during a meeting with the leading fast-food chains in the country, according to Dr. Angelina Sebial, head of the national center for health promotion.

Among those who attended—and promised—to serve healthy food were Jollibee, McDonalds, KFC and Tropical Hut, she said.

Compliance by Wendy's

Another meeting is set next month to check on the restaurants' compliance with the DOH program.

So far, only Wendy's Hamburger has responded to the call. The chain, led by chief executive officer Elizabeth Orbeta, yesterday signed an agreement with the DOH to reformulate its menu.

Unlike in the past, customers can now order grilled, pure-beef patties without the buns, fresh salad without the usually cholesterol-loaded mayo dressing, or plain baked potato which is rich in carbohydrates. It also now has low-sugar iced tea.

For the DOH, never mind if fast-food centers would have free and enormous media mileage for embracing the campaign. "What's important is that they offer healthy food options," Sebial said.

Wendy's also agreed to accommodate a DOH "healthy lifestyle corner" in its stores nationwide. The spot will have a weighing scale, body mass index instructional guide and other materials promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Sebial said she was expecting the other food chains to follow suit by the end of the year.

Customers' choice

"Aside from offering convenient, affordable and tasty meals, the challenge now is to turn fast food into healthy food and offer these healthy food choices to customers," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said in a statement.

The campaign was partly prompted by the 2003 National Nutrition and Health Survey showing that 90 percent of Filipinos aged 20 and above had at least one out of six risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

Save for smoking and physical inactivity, Duque said risk factors like obesity and abnormal cholesterol level could be traced to unhealthy diet.

And with five out of 10 Filipinos preferring fast food, the government and its allies in the private sector decided to tap popular fast-food outlets.

According to Fely Velandria, research specialist of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, the idea was to encourage these chains to provide healthy food options such as those rich in fiber and complex carbohydrates.

Minimize fat, salt

That means restaurants are encouraged to do away with saturated fat, minimize the use of salt, and offer choices like corn, ube, kamote, grains and nuts, she said.

Velandria warned that five grams of salt contained 2,000 mg of sodium which helps in the development of hypertension.

A healthy diet should also include at least 400 grams of fruits and vegetables daily.

Velandria also advised restaurants to use coconut oil and explore other "healthy cooking ways," such as grilling and boiling instead of the regular deep-frying.

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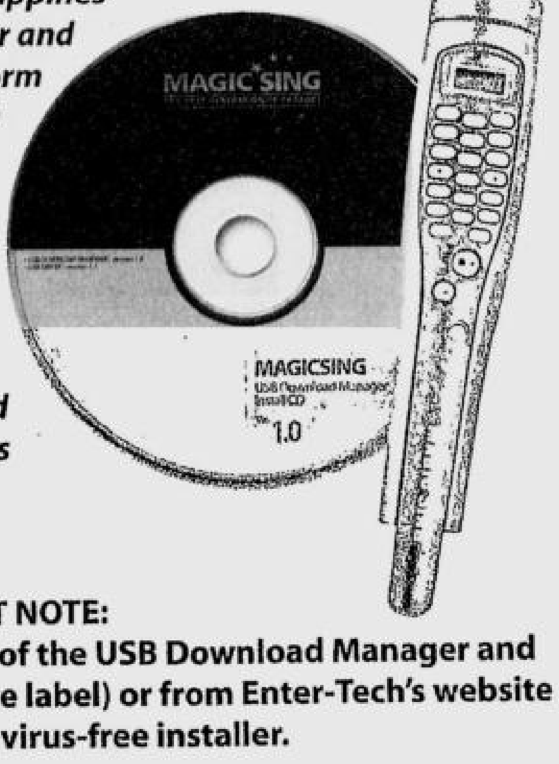

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3737 Series of 2005

Roxas: It's the economy, stupid

By TJ Burgonio

IT'S THE economy, stupid.

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II yesterday added his voice to the growing opposition to the proposed constitutional amendments, saying the government should instead focus on passing a new budget.

Roxas urged the Arroyo administration to initiate budget deliberations to allow Congress to adopt fiscal measures in the budget to respond to the needs of the 80 million Filipinos.

He stressed that the passage of a new budget was crucial to government efforts to sustain the gains of the tax reform measures passed by Congress last year.

If Congress focused its efforts on constitutional change preparatory to a shift to a federal-parliamentary form of government, the country might slip back to its "critical financial situation" last year, the senator warned.

"In 2004, the country suffered an economic downturn until Congress passed the tax reform measures to rescue the ailing economy," he said.

When she delivered her State of the Nation Address last Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo made no mention of the budget.

Roxas also pointed to the need for the government to take a look at the country's fiscal situation, noting that there were some indicators that the economy was hurting from the current political crisis.

The prices of canned goods, such as sardines and milk, are expected to rise by 15 to 25 centavos as an offshoot of the increase of tin prices in the world market, he said.

"The prices of canned goods such as sardines and milk are heavily dependent on imported materials. Tin can accounts for an average of 27 percent of all canned products' price, but for sardines and meat products, it can go up to as high as 70 percent," the senator said.

If it would insist on amending the Constitution, the government should focus on the economic provisions, Sen. Ralph Recto said.

He said people "might not sway" to the tune of Charter change (Cha-cha) if this were limited to the political provisions.

"Juan de la Cruz would like to see a linkage between the state of the Constitution and the state of *kaldero* (pot). Will Charter change put rice in my pot? That's the question he will be asking," the senator said.

Recto suggested that trade, patrimony and investment issues should be the subject of debates on Charter change, instead of the form of government and term limits of elected officials.

Gonzalez for hero's burial for Marcos

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said he favors giving former strongman Ferdinand Marcos a hero's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig.

"I have no objection to the transfer (of Marcos to the Libingan ng mga Bayani). That is my personal view," he said in an a chance interview with reporters.

Gonzalez said this even as he denied reports that President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Marcos heirs were discussing the possible burial of Marcos here.

The body of Marcos is kept in a refrigerated crypt in Ilocos Norte and former First Lady Imelda Marcos and her children have been trying unsuccessfully to get the body of the former leader transferred to the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Since 1993, Marcos' remains have been temporarily frozen and sealed inside a glass crypt at the family mausoleum in Batac town. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989. The mausoleum is located within Marcos' ancestral home, next to a museum housing various Marcos memorabilia.

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Upon further investigation, it has been revealed that the bundles are, actually, the 10 All-In-One Grand Packages that will be given away as Grand Prizes to 10 lucky NESTLÉ product shoppers in the "NESTLÉ Pasko Na, Pasko Now! P50 Million Raffle Promo," currently ongoing until September 30, 2005.

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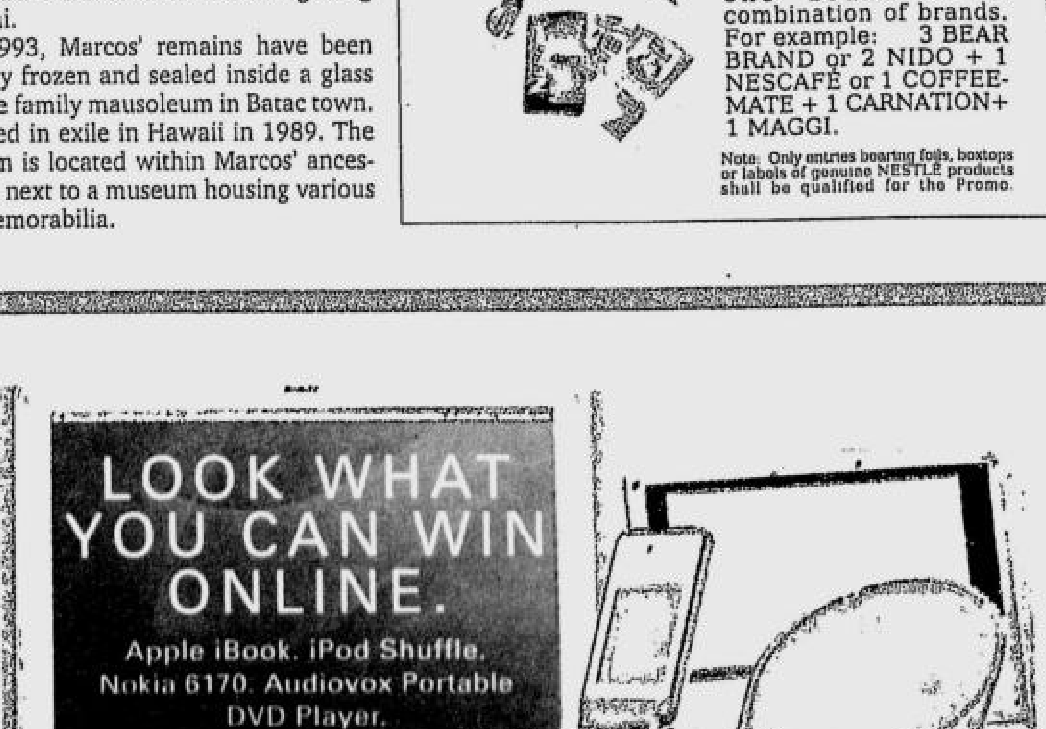
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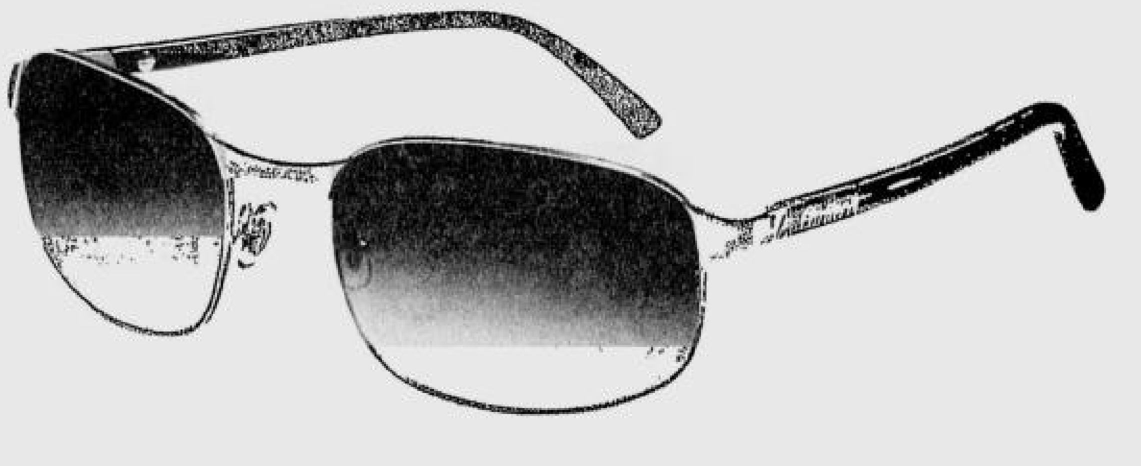

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Military court postpones dismissal of Magdalo case

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY court trying the 29 leaders of the July 27, 2003 Oakwood mutiny has delayed ruling on the formal dismissal of the charges against at least 27 of the leaders.

The case prescribed midnight Tuesday with only Lt. S.G. Antonio Trillanes IV and Capt. Milo Maestrecampo having been arraigned, according to the court.

Under the law, the rest of the "Magdalo" junior officers can no longer be tried since the two-year prescription period ended without them being arraigned.

The court's new president, Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon, however, postponed yesterday's scheduled hearing until Monday for an "unspecified reason." "I was just informed that the hearing was postponed," said lead military prosecutor Col. Julius Magno in a phone interview with reporters.

Defense lawyers were reportedly also informed about the postponement Wednesday night.

Magno said come Monday, he would exhaust all legal means to prevent the dismissal of the charges and to keep the coup leaders detained.

Military prosecutors tried to make up for lost time and arraign all 29 accused for violation of Article of War 96 (or conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman) during a 15-hour long hearing.

The six-member court martial had agreed with the position taken by the prosecution panel that the case against those who have not been arraigned as of midnight Tuesday would be dropped, based on the prescription law.

Defense lawyers led by Roel Pulido had argued that the case had already prescribed midnight Monday.

The court adjourned for lack of quorum – two members inhibited themselves after the the defense issued a challenge for cause – at 12:19 a.m. Wednesday without the arraignment.

"I will certainly interpose all legitimate objections before bringing the matter to the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals," Magno said yesterday.

Magno said he would ask the court to reconsider that the prescription period no longer applied to the case, saying the courts martial handbook provides that the two-year prescription period is suspended once a case is filed.

"There is no prescription period to speak of," he said.

But during the hearing, the prosecution panel said the case would prescribe midnight Tuesday, disputing the defense panel's claim that the case had prescribed midnight Monday.

Around 11 p.m., when it became clear there was not enough time left for the arraignment, Magno for the first time raised the argument that the prescription period has been suspended.

The court denied his petition.

Magno said the court was "under a state of confusion" during the marathon hearing. "They were carried away by the hypothetical issue," he said.

He also said they would also ask the court to reconsider their petition that 23 of the 29 coup leaders have already been arraigned.

The court, however, declared that only Trillanes and Maestrecampo have been arraigned and would therefore stand trial.

Defense lawyers said even Maestrecampo was never arraigned.

It's YOUng, not YOU

JUNIOR military officers who have supposedly revived the defunct rebel group, Young Officers' Union (YOU), warned their superiors against underestimating them.

In a statement issued yesterday, they said their group was real despite the denials of military officials.

They added they now call themselves the Young Officers' Union of the new generation (YOUng) to differentiate themselves from the original YOU.

"Let them deny to their hearts' content. In the end their constant denials will be their abysmal pit that will drag them down to their oblivion once we strike," the statement said.

It went on: "Yes certainly don't listen to us. For you may think we are just naïve young officers who are unaware of all your corruptions and incompetence. There is always a time for reckoning." The group once more demanded President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, which they aired in their first manifesto on July 21.

It was learned they issued a second statement on July 23 in reaction to the denials issued by military officials about their group's existence.

In their latest statement, they made three new demands: the surrender of Comelec commissioner Virgilio Garcillano; the suspension and trial of top military officials implicated in the "Hello Garci" poll fraud scandal; and the release of the Magdalo coup leaders.

They also cited several gripes in the military: poor living quarters, pilferage of resources system, politicking in promotions, lack of grievance forum, military involvement in poll cheating, and political interference in military operations.

Once more, the statement was signed by a Lt. Col. Arsenio Alcantara, an obvious pseudonym, as spokesman of the YOUng Central Command.

The group apologized to YOU members for using their group's name, which they said still holds an "untarnished image" as far as idealism and desire for reforms are concerned.

They called on the original YOU rebels, who now occupy ranking posts, to join them. "We know deep in your hearts where you stand. And we will wait for you coming," the statement said.

The Armed Forces yesterday dismissed the latest statement as a fake.

AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual had said the manifesto was likely the work of leftist groups or by the political opposition. *Dona Pazzibugan*

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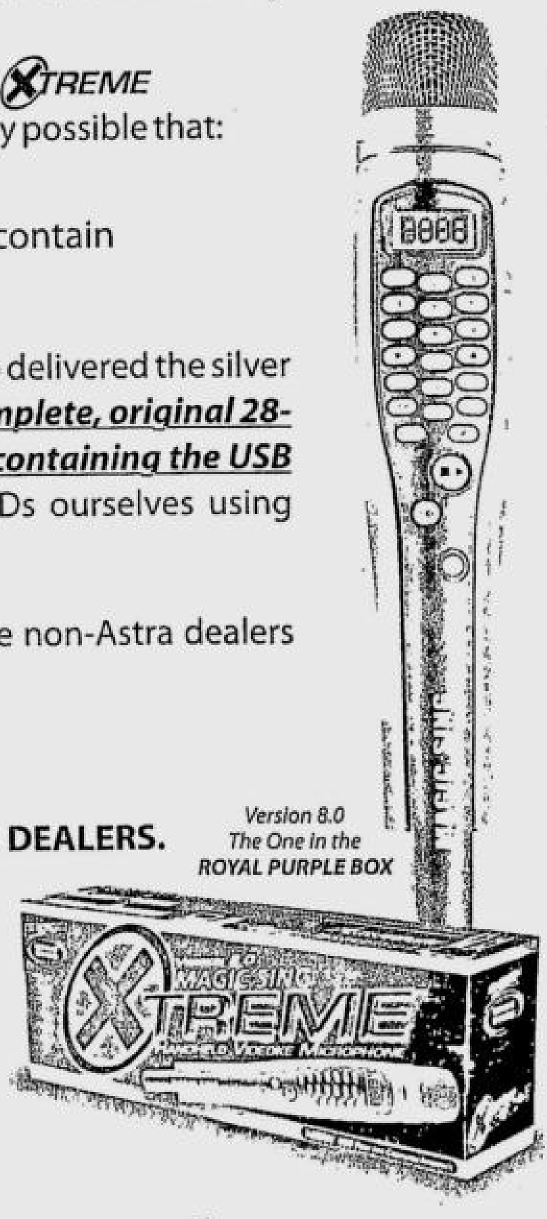

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 29, 2005
St. Martha

1st Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-17
Gospel: John 11:19-27

Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to offer consolation at their brother's death.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him while Mary remained sitting in the house. And she said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection, at the last day." But Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection; whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live. Whoever is alive by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha then answered, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

Commentary

Again, all the stories of the men and women disciples around Jesus are fraught with weakness, lack and humanness. Martha is the sister of Mary and Lazarus. Jesus returns and Lazarus has been in the tomb four days. Martha is angry, grieving and hurt. "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." There is no greeting—only words that sting with guilt. She wants him to give her back her brother. And she is told he will rise, but she doesn't want that—she wants what was—what he was. Jesus loves these three so much and yet they don't see who he is either! Jesus tells her who he is—it is the central line of John's gospel. "I am the resurrection; whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live. Whoever is alive by believing in me will never die. Do you believe?" She says Yes, but her answer betrays her—she calls him the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world. She misses him entirely. She too only sees him in light of the Messiah and prophet (sons of God). But we are each and all asked that question: do we believe that Jesus is the Resurrection and life? And that changes everything forever. Resurrection begins in baptism and we practice all our lives until we die. And like Martha we spend our whole lives learning who Jesus truly is—and never know but a small piece of the mystery.

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Pinoys to celebrate centennial in Hawaii

WAIPAHU, Hawaii—Benjamin Saguibo credits his life's accomplishments to his parents' immigration from the Philippines to Hawaii in search of a better life.

He credits them for the 60-cents-an-hour wage he made pumping gas when he was 18, and for the $2.75 an hour he later got as a construction worker building military homes at Schofield Barracks.

"It's a good thing our parents came to Hawaii," said Saguibo, 69, now business manager and secretary-treasurer for the Laborer's International Union Local 368, a position he rose to from his construction worker days. "It was lucky for us."

Next year will mark 100 years since a group of 15 farm workers, also known as "sakada," left the Philippines in 1906 and came to the Big Island to work in sugarcane fields. Waves of immigrants that followed brought the state's Filipino-American population to more than 275,000, second only to California, where more than 1 million live.

And to commemorate the stories of struggle and success of Filipino immigrants, the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission is planning yearlong festivities beginning Dec. 10.

At a news conference Wednesday at the Filipino Community Center, the commission unveiled the events planned for 2006, including concerts, parades, cultural exhibits, a film festival and a historical dramatization of the first Filipinos to arrive in Hawaii.

"This is a way for us to look back on where we came from, where we are today, and what the future holds for the next generation of Filipino youth," said Elias Beniga, chairman of the commission.

The celebration has also received state support.

Gov. Linda Lingle, honorary chairwoman of Hawaii's Filipino Centennial Celebration, gave the commission a $50,000 check on top of the $150,000 in state appropriations she released last year.

The Filipino migration to Hawaii, Lingle said, is "really the story of America, a country where a group of people... had the opportunity to excel."

Jeoffrey Cudiamat, president of the Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce, praised the achievements Filipinos have made, noting that many have become doctors, lawyers, lawmakers, and even governor.

Former Gov. Ben Cayetano, who served from 1994-2002, was the first Filipino American to win a state's highest office.

"We are at a better advantage compared to what the sakada had to go through," Cudiamat said.

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b. Cooking knife 259.75
c. Bread knife 249.75
d. Steel sharpener 289.75
FREE Touchstone 6-pc cocktail fork set for a minimum P500 purchase
(North Edsa / Ortigas / Makati / Las Pinas)

4-pc Spoon & fork sets
Your choice 50.00
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SEAGULL Knives
SAVE 10%
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b. Peeling knife, sharpened end
c. Peeling knife, round end

MITSUBOSHI
Classic Harmony service for 4
SPECIALS 389.75

KITCHEN PRO High quality stainless steel blade
a. Cleaver knife 149.75
b. Butcher knife 99.75
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AMERICAN CHEF
13-pc stainless steel kitchen cutlery set
SPECIALS 179.75

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Asean, Australia forge stronger ties

VIENTIANE, Laos—Southeast Asia and Australia forged a new friendship on Thursday while Asia's top security forum struggled to stay relevant by expanding its mission from annual speechmaking to year-round diplomatic troubleshooting.

Australia pushed aside its past reservations about a nonaggression pact with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and signed a document of intent to join the treaty so it can be more solidly aboard efforts to create an Asia trade bloc to rival Europe and North America.

Australia's foreign minister joined counterparts from the 10-member Asean bloc and 13 other Asia-Pacific nations in Laos for the annual security-oriented Asean Regional Forum through Friday.

The ARF is Asia's top annual security forum, but it was getting second-tier attention this year from big players: Top diplomats from the United States, Japan, China and India skipped all or part of this year's meeting, sending deputies instead.

"We see it as a coincidence. It's that they have some urgent business," said Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon. "We hope it's not a new trend."

Ministers at the conference planned to adopt a new doctrine on Friday empowering the chair of the forum to convene committees during brewing conflicts so that they can intervene with "preventive diplomacy," ARF spokesperson M.C. Abad Jr. said.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said the change had been inevitable since the ARF was formed in 1994.

"I think after 10 years, it is the correct way of moving forward ... a natural extension," Syed Hamid told The Associated Press on Thursday. "I think it is good that it is not just simply a talk shop."

Abad said forum officials were drafting a concept paper to elaborate on giving the ARF chair the enhanced role.

Also Thursday in Vientiane, the United States, Australia, China, India, Japan and South Korea announced their commitment to a nonbinding initiative to control greenhouse emissions by developing cleaner energy technologies. Environmentalists suspected the initiative could undermine the Kyoto antipollution treaty.

Australia originally balked at joining countries such as Russia, China and India in signing the Asean nonaggression pact, saying it could conflict with its other treaties, including with the United States.

Southeast Asian nations had urged Australia to sign the accord to help dispel their concerns over Canberra's policy asserting it has the right to attack terrorists on foreign soil if they posed a threat to Australia. *AP*

US, North Korea envoys hold 3rd meet on nukes

BEIJING—US and North Korean envoys held their third one-on-one meeting on Thursday amid talks aimed at convincing the North to give up nuclear weapons, after the two sides staked out tough positions with Pyongyang refusing to disarm until Washington normalizes relations.

"We had a long discussion with them," US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told reporters after the two-hour session with North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan. "There's certainly some points of agreement, but there continues to be points of disagreement."

He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, a news report said North Korea hadn't assembled a working nuclear bomb but that the country had acquired all the components necessary to build one.

The North claimed to have nuclear weapons in February. However, a diplomatic source close to the arms talks told Russia's Interfax news agency that Pyongyang informed China that the announcement meant the North was able to build a detonator for an atomic bomb. The source said the detonator was the most sophisticated element in weapons design that the North had been struggling to construct since the 1960s.

North Korea has avoided spending to build up a nuclear stockpile, but the source told Interfax that the country would begin to do so in the face of unacceptable demands or a lack of security guarantees from the United States and its allies.

At the morning meeting, the Americans proposed an international inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities in September, Interfax reported, citing a North Korean source. The source said the proposal was counter to the North's principle of seeking step-by-step rewards for its pledges and actions, but declined to specify how the country would respond to the offer.

Hill denied the report. *AP*

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SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2005

BULACAN

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:30PM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 46YE
Portion of Patubig Road from near Marilao Exit to near Holy Lamb Academy including A. Jacinto, O. Bonifacio, C. San Jose, Maligaya and Batong Bakal Sts. in Bgy. Patubig, Marilao.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 46YE
Portion of Patubig Road from Pag-asa St. near Holy Lamb Academy to and including Bgy. Duhat, Bocaue, Bgys. Mahabang Parang, San Gabriel, Tibagan and Camangyanan in Sta. Maria.
REASON: Urgent relocation of facilities along Patubig Road due to road-widening project.

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 - 2, 2005

MANILA (TUTUBAN)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 08/01/05) AND 1:00AM (TUE., 08/02/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT TUTUBAN 53VT
Tutuban Center Cluster Buildings 1 and 2
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco Tutuban substation.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2005

VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 3:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BAGBAGUIN 414YZ
Portion of North Luzon Expressway East Service Road from near Macortiz Engineering to and including Unison Footwear, Superior Materials & Chemicals, Polyfoam Ind'l Corp., Gem Steel, Sunshine Textile Mills, Denver Builders Supply, AB Paper Products, Nation Paper Products and Console Farms in Bgys. East Canumay and Lawang Bato.
REASON: Various maintenance work along North Luzon Expressway East Service Road in Bgy. East Canumay, Valezuela City.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2-3, 2005

MANDALUYONG CITY, QUEZON CITY AND PASIG CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (TUE., 08/02/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30AM AND 3:00AM (WED., 08/03/05) – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT SM-SHANGRI-LA 46VR - MANDALUYONG 44VD – ORTIGAS 41XH
Portion of Epifanio delos Santos Ave. (North Bound) from near Shangri-La Plaza Gardenway in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City to Poveda Drive including Robinson's Galleria in Quezon City.
Portion of Ortigas Ave. from Meralco Center to near EDSA including Sanso, Tabuena, Zalameda, S. Paterno, Circle, Don V. Madrigal, Luz, Noyda, Perez, Querubin, Roces, Ocampo, Luz Circle, Luna, Young, Fuentes, Amorsolo, Edades, Abueva, Navarro, Manansala, David, Don V. Rufino, Joya, Imao, Hechanova, Bautista, Gajo, Castrillo Sts. in Corinthian Gardens, Manila Water Co. Pumping Station, PCI Bank in Quezon City; and MC Home Depot in Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BETWEEN 3:30AM AND 4:00AM (WED., 08/03/05) – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT SM-SHANGRI-LA 51VR-44VR - MANDALUYONG 43VD
Portion of Meralco Ave. from Doña Julia Vargas Ave. to Capt. Henry P. Javier St. (Escarpment Road) including Benpres Bldg. (Chronicle Bldg.), Manila Water – Pasig Pumping Station and Reservoir, Pasig Fire Department, Phoenix Sun Intl. Corp., The Alexandra (Clusters D & E) and The Alexandra Clubhouse in Ortigas Center and Bgy. San Antonio, Pasig City

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 08/02/05) AND 3:00AM (WED., 08/03/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SM-SHANGRI-LA 46VR - MANDALUYONG 43VD – ORTIGAS 41XH
Along Poveda Drive from near Robinson's Galleria to near ADB Ave. including Poveda Learning Center in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.
REASON: Loadshifting of portion of circuits SM-Shangri-La 46VR - Mandaluyong 43VD – Ortigas 41XH and SM-Shangri-La 51VR-44VR - Mandaluyong 43VD.

CAVITE (DASMARIÑAS)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 08/02/05) AND 5:00AM (WED., 08/03/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT GMA 46XF
Portion of Governor Drive (Pala-Pala - Carmona Highway) from near Dasmariñas - GMA boundary to near Molino - Paliparan National Road including Cavite Foods Corp. in Dasmariñas.
REASON: Reconstruction of facilities along Governor Drive near Dasmariñas Technopark in Dasmariñas, Cavite

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2005

CAVITE (GEN. TRIAS)

BETWEEN 1:00AM AND 3:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT FCIE 65WB – GATEWAY 62WP
Purefoods Hormel and San Miguel Fuso Molds in Sitio de Fuego.
REASON: Maintenance work along C. delos Reyes St. in Sitio de Fuego, Gen. Trias, Cavite.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 2:00AM AND 2:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS CUBAO 47VQ AND MARIKINA 41VG
Portion of P. Tuazon Blvd., 18th Ave. and Boni Serrano Ave. from Meralco-Cubao substation to and including St. Ignatius Village in Bgy. St. Ignatius; Dept. of National Defense, Sieko Ice Plant, Caltex, 1st Camilla and P. Zamorra Sts. in Bgys. San Roque and Socorro.
Portion of E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. from Boni Serrano Ave. to and including Acropolis Subd., Citibank Tower, Eastwood City, Cyber One, TechnoPlaza 1, Eastwood Corporate Plaza, Prestige Cars - Libis, LBL Industries Inc., Mercury Drug Group of Companies, MWSS, AFP Research & Devt. Center, Camp Atienza and Blue Ridge Subd. "B" in Bgys. Libis and Blue Ridge

BETWEEN 2:00AM AND 7:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS CUBAO 47VQ; AND MARIKINA 41VG
Portion of Boni Serrano Ave. from near Libis Elementary School to near E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) including Katipunan - C-5 flyover in Bgy. Libis.
REASON: Replacement of concrete pole along Boni Serrano Ave. in Bgy. Libis, Quezon City.

WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, AUGUST 3 – 4, 2005

PASIG CITY AND TAGUIG CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED., 08/03/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM (THU., 08/04/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS TAGUIG 46ZL, 49ZL AND 50ZL
Portion of Elizco Road from Meralco-Taguig substation to near Dr. A. Natividad Ave. (Tipas - Napindan Road) including Elitool, Chemical Industries of the Phils. (Chemphil Albright & Wilson Corp.), Polyphosphates Compound in Bgy. Kalawaan, Pasig City; Winning Enterprises, Emme Transport Facilities, Phil. Timber Valley Trading Co., Pilipinas YTK and Martian Steel Corp. in Bgy. Ibayo Tipas, Taguig City.
Portion of Dr. A. Natividad Ave. (Tipas – Napindan Road) from near CAPASCO Compound to near Hon. Alfonso Sandoval Ave. including C & C Commercial, Italit Construction and Devt. Corp. and Intra Tire Retreading in Bgy. Napindan, Taguig City.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 08/03/05) AND 7:00AM (THU., 08/04/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS TAGUIG 46ZL, 49ZL AND 50ZL
Portion of Elizco Road and Dr. A. Natividad Ave. (Tipas – Napindan Road) from Meralco-Taguig susbstation to near Pasig – Taytay – Taguig boundary including Ley Good Mix Concrete, Nikkei Rubber Industries, CAPASCO Compound and Malhar Embroideries in Bgys. Ibayo Tipas and Napindan, Taguig City.
REASON: Reconductoring work and installation of two (2) new line swiches along Dr. A. Natividad Ave. (Tipas – Napindan Road) in Bgy. Napindan, Taguig City.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2005

QUEZON CITY (U. P. DILIMAN CAMPUS)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE CIRCUIT OF UP - III 11CA
Portion of Magsaysay Ave. from near Katipunan Ave. to and including State Financing and Auditing Center, Bonifacio Hall, Virata Hall, Vanguard, Center for Women's Studies, Film Center, Computer Center and College of Law.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – UP - III substation.

CALOOCAN CITY AND MALABON CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 412YD
Portion of M. H. Del Pilar and A. Mabini Sts from Meralco – Malabon substation along Lt Leandro Roque St. to Gen. San Miguel St. in Sangandaan, Caloocan City.
REASON: Various maintenance work inside Meralco-Malabon substation.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 - 5, 2005

LAGUNA (SAN PABLO CITY)

BETWEEN 10:00PM AND 10:30PM (THU., 08/04/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 08/05/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS SAN PABLO III 43WJ AND SAN PABLO II 13ZU
Portion of Rizal Ave., Mabini, Malvar Sts., Schetlig Ave. and Provincial Road from Meralco - San Pablo II substation along Mabini St. to near Lozada Subd. including Bonifacio, P. Gomez, Zamora, Burgos, A. Regidor, Brion, H. Belen, Flores, M. Clara, Azucena, Gen. Luna, Balagtas, Almario, Alvares, Vilongco, Don Manuel, Condemera Sts. in San Pablo City Town Proper; San Pablo Doctor's Hospital and Laguna College in San Pablo City Proper.
Portion of M. Paulino St. from Rizal Ave. to and including San Gregorio St., Farcon Ville Subd., Villa San Gregorio Subd., Lake City Village and Manhattan Village in Bgys. San Francisco and San Gregorio.
Along Sampaguita, Ilang Ilang Sts. and Bgy. Sto. Cristo – San Jose Road from M. Paulino St. to and including Nestle Hidden Spring Compound, Riverview Subd., Magcaseville and Green Valley Subd. in Bgys. Sto. Cristo and San Jose.

BETWEEN 10:00PM (THU., 08/04/05) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 08/05/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS SAN PABLO III 43WJ AND SAN PABLO II 13ZU
Portion of Mabini St. and Bgy. San Lucas Provincial Road from near San Pablo Doctor's Hospital to and including Arsenio Millares Slaughter House in Bgy. San Buenaventura; Lake Side Park Subd., Pilar Marino Subd., Brion Village, Meralco Housing, Springleaf Heights Subd., Lake City Hotel in Bgy. San Lucas; Bgys. San Pedro and Dolores.
REASON: Various maintenance work along Mabini St. in Bgy. San Lucas, San Pablo City, Laguna.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2005

MANILA (STA. MESA AND SAN MIGUEL)

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 7:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 46H – TEGEN 46B – SAMPALOC 43K
Portion of Nagtahan and Aceite Sts. from Meralco-Tegen substation to Valencia St. including Parade and Engineer Sts.; Malacañang Communications Center and NICA in San Miguel.
Portion of Jose Abad Santos, C. de Dios Sts., Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. and Martin Sts. from Pureza St. to near Arevalo St. including C. Arellano, M. Araullo, C. de Dios Sts.; Polytechnic University of the Philippines (Jasmin Bldg. & Printing Bldg.), EARIST - ITC, Pio del Pilar Elem. School, Bennel Dormitory, Intl. Ping Ming and Traffic Engineering Center in Sta. Mesa.
REASON: Replacement of rotten poles at NFA compound near Valencia St. in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

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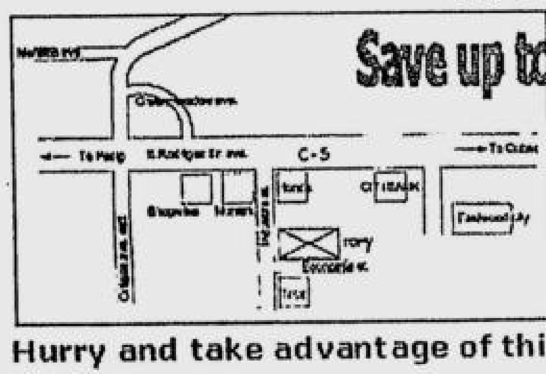

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Astronauts reach station

SPACE CENTER, Houston—The US spacecraft Discovery moved closer to the international space station on Thursday and was to perform an unprecedented back flip before docking to allow photographs of the shuttle's belly for signs of damage.

Discovery trailed the space station by less than 1,000 km early Thursday and was expected to perform the flip around 1100GMT. Docking was set for an hour later.

The move follows a huge setback on Wednesday, when Nasa decided to ground future shuttle flights because a chunk of insulating foam flew off Discovery's fuel tank during liftoff—as it did in Columbia's doomed mission. This time, the foam apparently missed the spacecraft.

Discovery was the first shuttle to return to orbit in the two and a half years since Columbia broke apart over Texas as it returned to Earth on Feb. 1, 2003. All seven astronauts aboard died.

The space agency believed it had solved problems associated with the foam. *AP*

SILVER SWAN SUSTANSYARAP

TIPID RECIPES below P100*

GRILLED FIESTA SQUID

8 pcs	squid, medium size	1/3 cup	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
1 pc	tomato, quartered	3 Tbsp	calamansi juice
1/2 pc	small cucumber with skin, cut into 4	1/2 tsp	ground pepper
1 pc	Saba banana, cut crosswise into 4	2 tsp	brown sugar
Marinade:		**Sauce:**	
2 Tbsp	cooking oil	1/4 cup	**Silver Swan cane vinegar**
2 cloves	garlic, crushed	2 Tbsp	brown sugar
2 Tbsp	chopped spring onions	2 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
		3 Tbsp	water
		1 pc	siling labuyo, finely chopped

Procedure:

1. Combine the marinade ingredients in a bowl. Toss in the squid and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours.
2. Drain squid. Thread through a skewer or a barbecue stick the following: one tomato wedge, a squid, a cucumber cube, another squid and a banana piece last. Do the same with the rest of the ingredients.
3. Grill over hot charcoal fire, turning frequently for 3-4 minutes. Baste with marinade often to keep barbecue moist.
4. Serve with the sauce. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
13	30	15	28	12	48	4	9	19	33

Each serving is rich in vitamin A and vitamin C.
It is also a fair source of protein

HOT CHICKEN-VEGETABLE STEW

2 Tbsp	cooking oil	2 tsp	sugar, dissolved with the cornstarch mixture
1 Tbsp	ginger, finely sliced	1/8 kg	baguio beans, cut 2" long
1/4 kg	chicken, adobo cut	1 pc	singkamas, sliced into rectangular pieces
1 pc	small red onion, chopped	1 pc	carrot, flower-shaped cut
3 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**	5 pcs	long green hot peppers, whole
2 Tbsp	cornstarch, dispersed in 1/2 cup water	1/2 tsp	salt
8 pcs	squid balls		

Procedure:

1. Sauté ginger, onion and chicken. Add **Silver Swan soy sauce** and 1 cup water. Boil. Reduce heat to simmer until chicken is tender.
2. Add squid balls and sugar-cornstartch mixture. Stir until sauce thickens.
3. Add baguio beans, singkamas, carrots and hot pepper. Add salt Do not overcook vegetables.
4. Remove from heat and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
12	30	21	6	16	22	10	78	10	10	43	7

Each serving provides more than 75% of the recommended nutrient intake for vitamin A. It is also a good source of niacin.

* based on July 1 2005 prices

Developed for SILVER SWAN under the supervision of Ma. Veritas F. Luna, Ph.D. of the College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines

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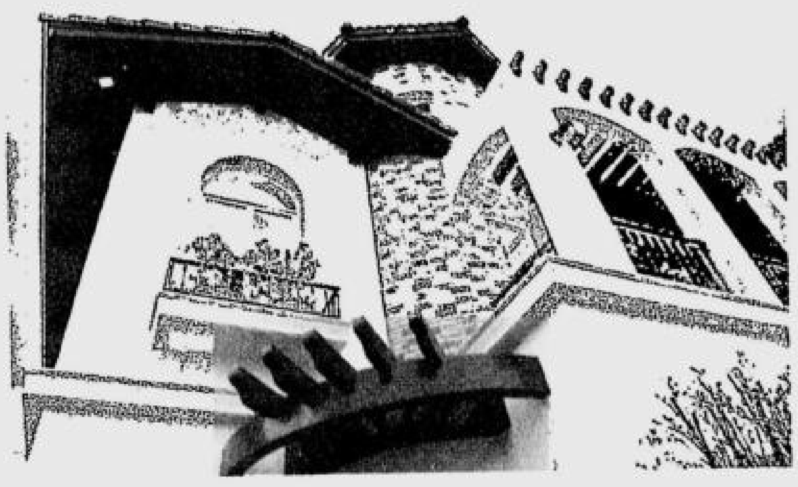
Watch out! NEW RECIPES August 5

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino: A Romantic Interlude



The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.

Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

Heavy rains kill 450 in India

BOMBAY, India—Rescuers searched with bare hands on Thursday for survivors buried under debris and rushed aid to villages cut off by record-breaking rains that paralyzed Bombay and its surrounding state, leaving more than 450 dead.

Officials said 267 people died in Bombay, India's financial capital as well as the capital of Maharashtra state, after being crushed by falling walls, trapped in cars or electrocuted when the most intense rains on record swept through the city on Tuesday evening. Phone networks collapsed, highways were blocked and the city's airports, among the nation's busiest, were closed.

At least 452 people were reported dead in different parts of Maharashtra, said B.M. Kulkarni, the deputy secretary in charge of the state's emergency control room in Bombay.

In the northern Bombay suburb of Saki Naka, relief workers and survivors sifted through rubble on Thursday after a small hill crashed on a group of huts, leaving more than 45 people missing and presumed dead.

"I was scared the hill would fall. I kept telling my cousin, 'Let's leave,'" sobbed Aslam Khan. "But he wouldn't listen. Now it's too late."

Bodies were piled onto trucks and private cars were flagged down to carry several dozen injured to hospitals.

"People ran as soon as the hill started crumbling. But the old people had no chance," said Shabana Shaikh, who lost her parents in the landslide. She said authorities had asked shanty dwellers each year to vacate their decrepit homes.

"But we didn't really expect it to fall," said Shaikh, her clothes caked with mud.

Officials said parts of Bombay had been hit by up to 94.4 centimeters of rain on Tuesday, the highest one-day total in India's history. Much of it came over a few evening hours. Photos showed the sprawling city covered with water, with cars choking almost every main road.

Bombay's residents responded by opening up their homes and distributing food to motorists stuck in traffic and people wading through water.

"They were just angels. Women and children were giving food, biscuits to people on the road and even assuring us that it was home-cooked," said G. Sawant, a manager at a private infrastructure company.

Residents tied ropes across flooded roads to help people wade through waist-deep water as workers repaired communication networks and towed away abandoned cars and buses to clear the city's grid-locked highways. Train services had resumed and flights were to begin later in the day.

Hundreds of Bombay residents began returning to their homes early Thursday in the worst affected parts of the city's suburbs after spending two nights stranded in offices, buses, cars or trains. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

CIA bans book on Osama escape

WASHINGTON—The US Central Intelligence Agency is squelching publication of a new book detailing events leading up to Osama bin Laden's escape from his Tora Bora mountain stronghold during the US-led invasion of Afghanistan, says a former CIA officer who led much of the fighting. In a story he says he resigned from the intelligence agency to tell, Gary Berntsen recounts the attacks he coordinated at the peak of the fighting in eastern Afghanistan in late 2001, including how US commanders knew Bin Laden was in the rugged mountains near the Pakistani border and the al-Qaida leader's much-discussed getaway. Berntsen claims in a federal court lawsuit that the CIA is over-classifying his manuscript and has repeatedly missed deadlines written into its own regulations to review his book. *AP*

Al-Qaida claims killing Algeria envoys

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Iraq's most feared terror group said it killed two kidnapped Algerian diplomats because of Algeria's ties to the United States and its crackdown on Islamic extremists. As the bloodshed continued Wednesday, the Bush administration sought to keep up political momentum by pressuring Iraq to complete its constitutional draft ahead of an Aug. 15 deadline. "It's time for a compromise," visiting Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told the Iraqis. The diplomats' deaths brought to three the number of foreign envoys reported killed this month as part of a militant campaign to isolate Iraq's embattled government within the Arab and Muslim world. *AP*

2 US soldiers die in roadside bombing

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Roadside bombs killed two American soldiers in northern Baghdad and ignited a train carrying fuel in the south of Iraq's capital, killing two Iraqis and wounding six others, officials said Thursday. The bombing that killed the two US soldiers came Wednesday during a patrol by soldiers assigned to the Army's Task Force Baghdad, the military said on Thursday. Their deaths brought to three the number of American soldiers killed in central Iraq on Wednesday; seven have been killed since Sunday night. As of Wednesday, at least 1,782 members of the US military had died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. *AP*

Warning up: Bombers may strike again

LONDON—Britain's most senior police officer warned Thursday that terrorists responsible for last week's failed bombings on London's transport system could strike again, as officers arrested a further nine men in dawn raids. Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair also warned that other terror cells could be planning attacks, and said the country faced "a somber moment." "It does remain possible that those at large will strike again," Blair told a meeting of the Metropolitan Police Authority. "It does also remain possible that there are other cells who are capable and intent on striking again." Scotland Yard police headquarters said nine men were arrested under the Terrorism Act at two properties in the neighborhood of Tooting, south London, early Thursday morning. They were being held in a central London police station. *AP*

Judge chides Bush's antiterror tactics

SEATTLE—The sentence itself was fairly straightforward: An Algerian man received 22 years for plotting to bomb the Los Angeles airport on the eve of the millennium. It was what the judge said in imposing the term that raised eyebrows. US District Judge John C. Coughenour said the successful prosecution of Ahmed Ressam should serve not only as a warning to terrorists, but as a statement to US President George W. Bush's administration about its terrorism-fighting tactics. "We did not need to use a secret military tribunal, detain the defendant indefinitely as an enemy combatant or deny the defendant the right to counsel," he said. "The message to the world from today's sentencing is that our courts have not abandoned our commitment to the ideals that set our nation apart." He added the Sept. 11 attacks made Americans realize they are vulnerable to terrorism and that some believe "this threat renders our Constitution obsolete ... If that view is allowed to prevail, the terrorists will have won." *AP*

IRA peace declaration considered imminent

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—Politicians across Ireland and Britain waited anxiously on Thursday for a long-sought Irish Republican Army declaration on its future intentions, chiefly on whether the outlawed group will disarm and disband. Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and his foreign minister, Dermot Ahern, cut short vacations to return to Dublin. Britain, in a deliberate encouragement to the IRA, offered a parole Wednesday night to an IRA man convicted of one of the group's worst attacks, a 1993 bombing that killed nine Protestants. *AP*

Rwanda approves release of 36,000 prisoners

KIGALI, Rwanda—The Cabinet has approved the provisional release of 36,000 inmates, including thousands suspected of taking part in Rwanda's 1994 genocide, to reduce the strain on prisons holding nearly triple their capacity, officials said. Rwandan prison authorities will start releasing the prisoners Friday, Information Minister Laurent Nkusi said in a statement late Wednesday. Those eligible for release include genocide suspects who have made confessions but were not planners of the slaughter of more than 500,000 mainly minority Tutsis and political moderates from the Hutu majority, Nkusi said. *AP*

Tsunami warning in Pacific

CANBERRA, Australia—Dozens of newly discovered volcanoes in a stretch of the Pacific Ocean pose a major tsunami risk due to the area's seismic instability, an Australian geologist warned Thursday.

Research teams from the United States, Germany, Australia and New Zealand have discovered 75 previously unknown volcanoes in a 2,000-kilometer strip from New Zealand north to Tonga in the past six years, Australian National University geologist Prof. Richard Arculus said.

Previously, only 10 volcanoes were known to exist in the 20,000 sq. km. of seabed.

"It's far more active than previously thought," Arculus said. "It's as active as anywhere else on the planet."

Asked if the strip of volcanoes posed a major tsunami risk, he said, "Personally, I think it does."

On Thursday, Arculus released high-resolution images of the new volcanoes which were created from seabed data. *AP*

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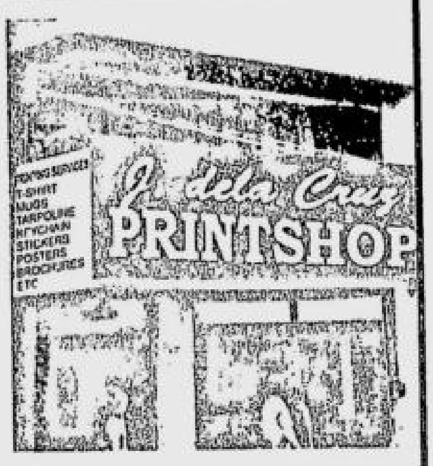

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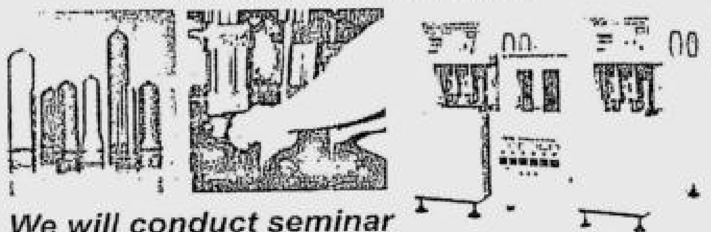

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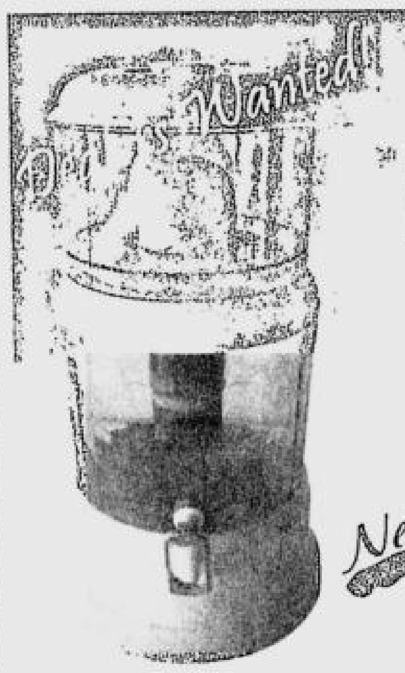

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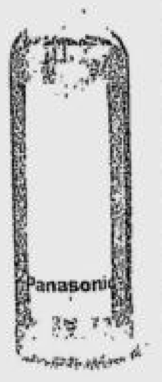

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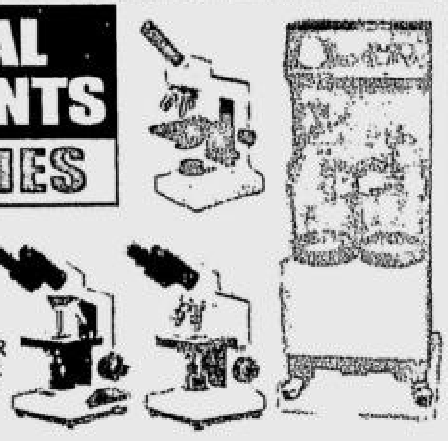

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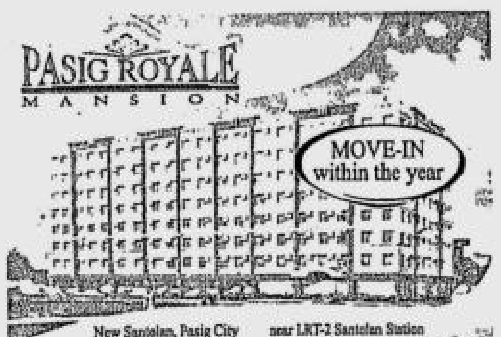

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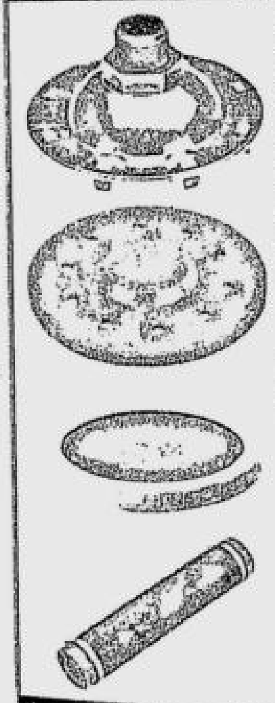

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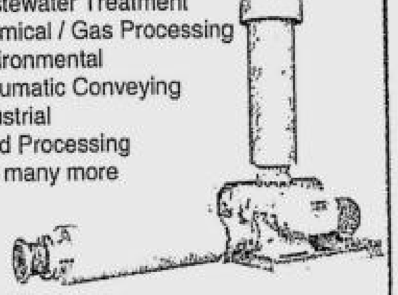

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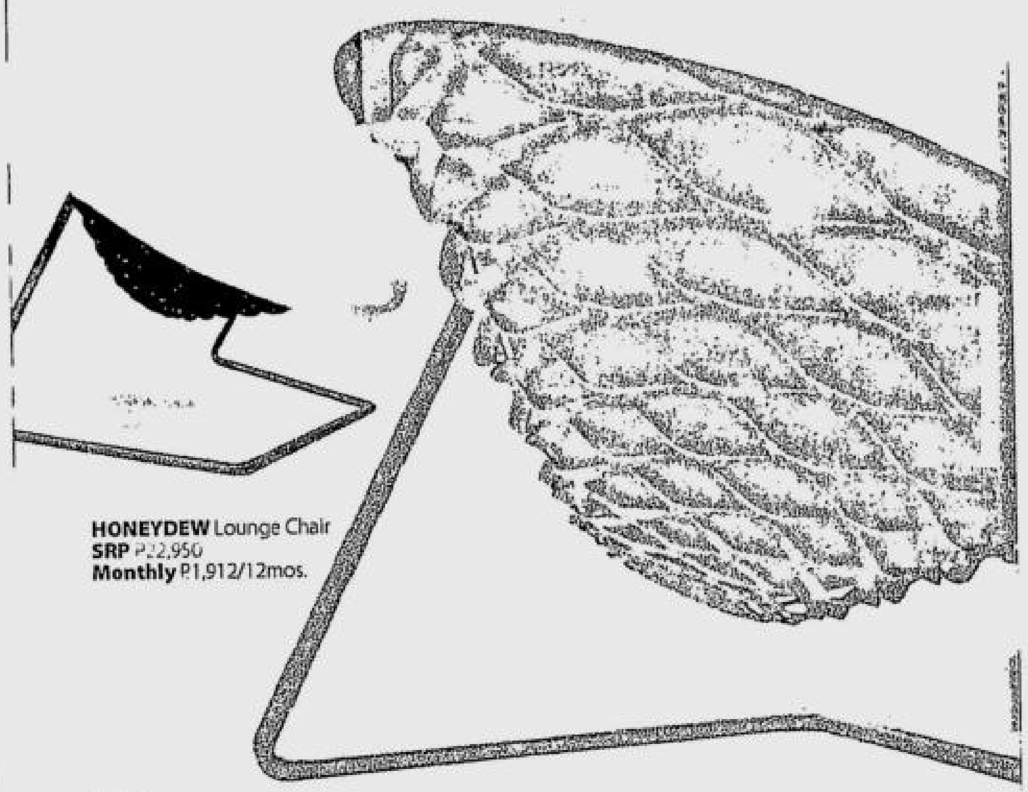

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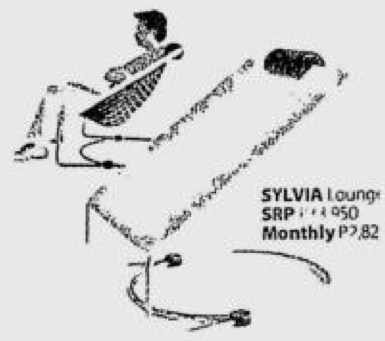

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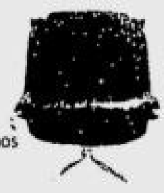

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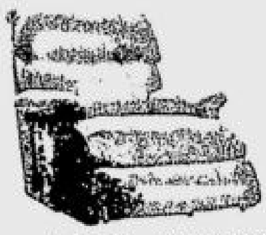

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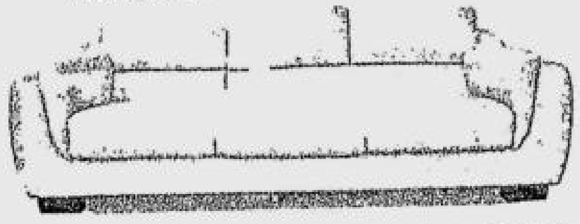

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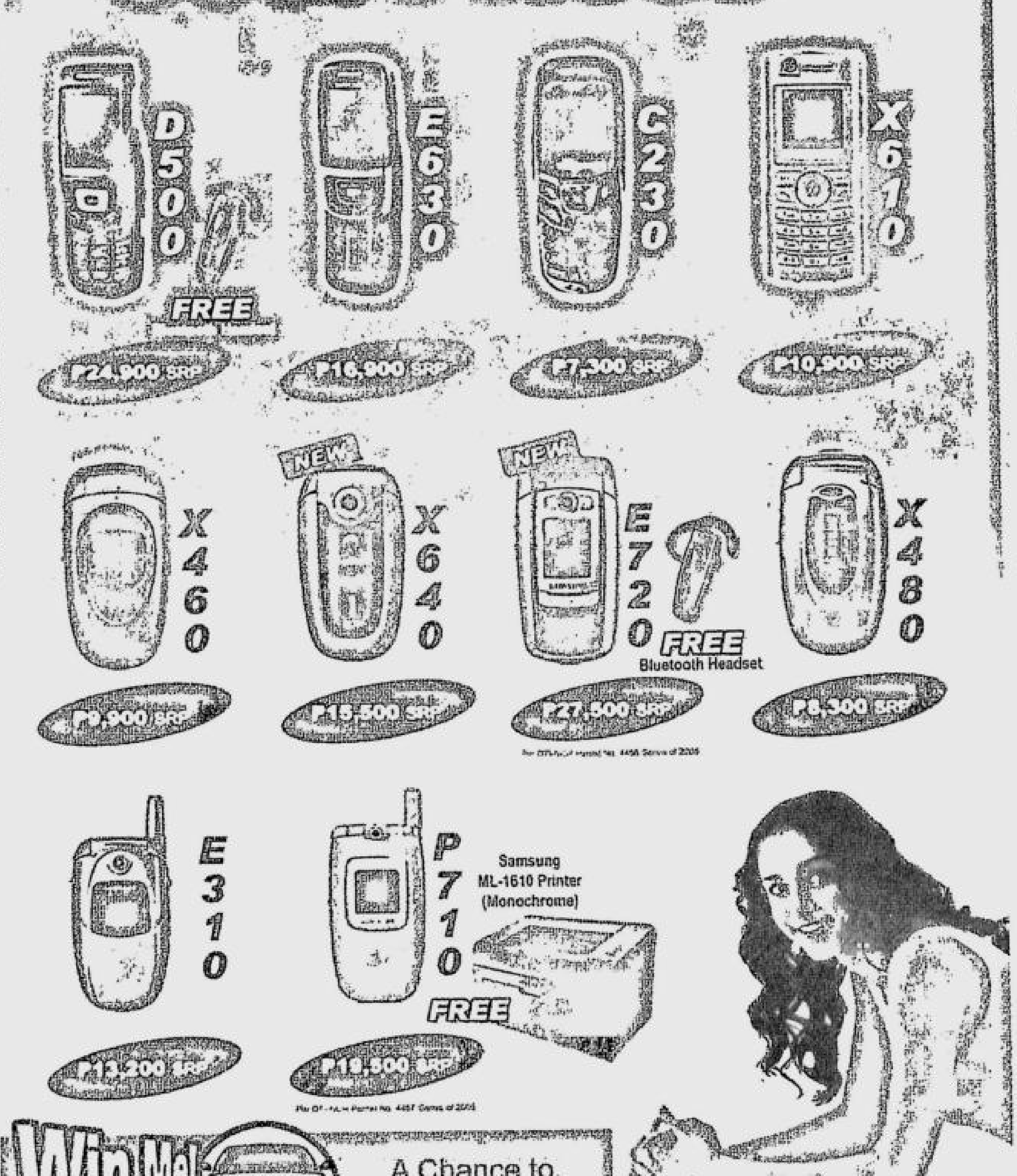

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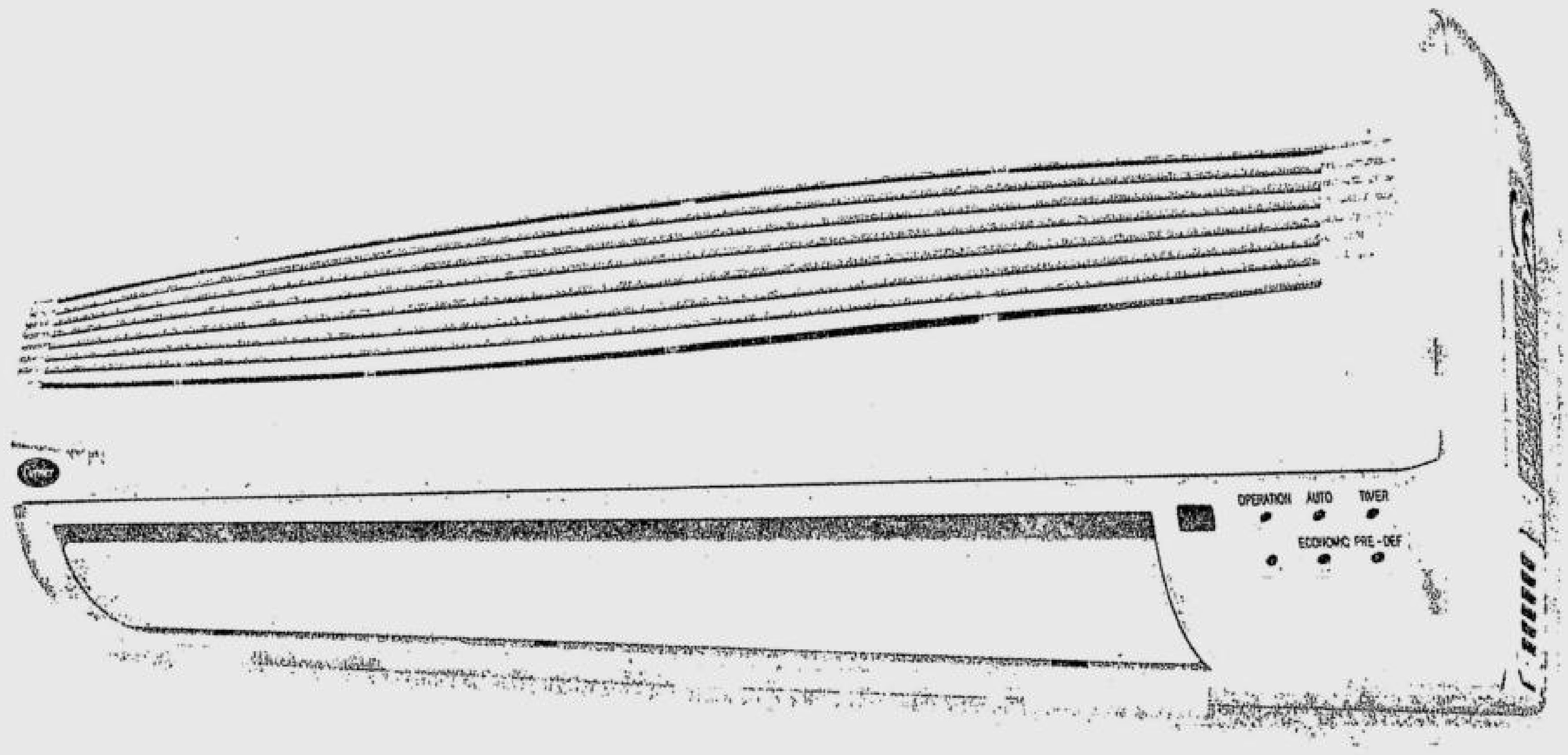

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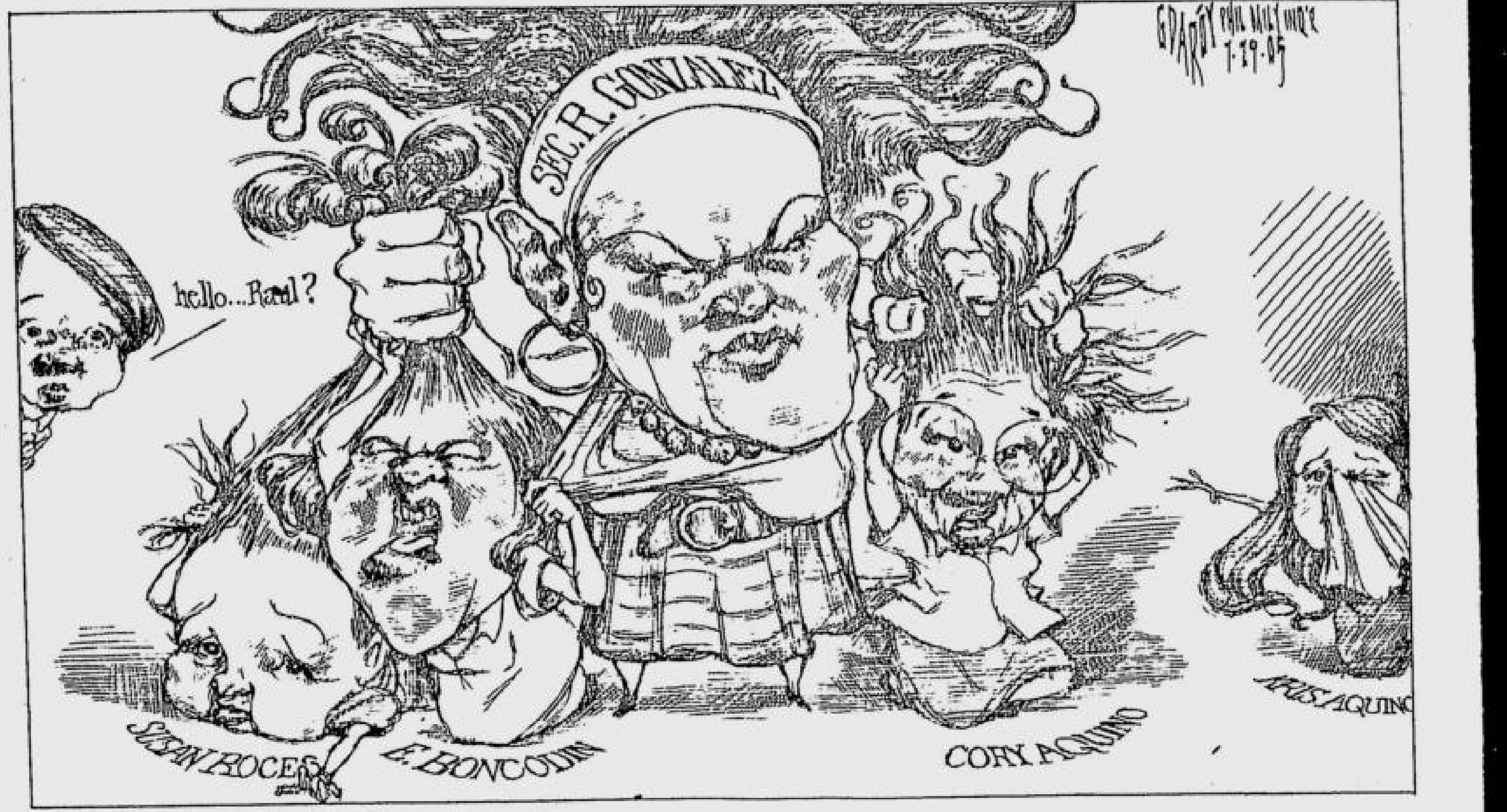


EDITORIALS

Demolition man

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez, armed with a list from the Department of Budget and Management showing the party-list representatives of Bayan Muna, Akbayan, Anakpawis and Gabriela received millions of pesos in pork-barrel funds, has asked the Commission on Audit to look into how that money was spent. He claimed the funds are financing protest actions instead of being used for rice and medicine. But even as he made his suspicions public, Gonzalez offered no proof. "We are assuming that there is misappropriation," he admitted. "If there is none, there is none." In other words, he wants the Ombudsman to act on nothing more than his hunch.

A partisan motivation and an attempt to besmirch the reputations not just of leftist party-list representatives, but of former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who released these funds when she was still in office, are what Representatives Liza Maza and Satur Ocampo suspect to be behind Gonzalez's statements. They have proposed that the Ombudsman look into the sources of funds for the large pro-administration rally held at the Rizal Park as well as bringing that large delegation of local government executives to hear the President's State of the Nation Address. Which doesn't exactly answer the question posed by Gonzalez. So it would be interesting to find out how the party-list representatives managed to outsmart their other pork-hungry colleagues and got bigger shares of the funds.

But if an investigation is to be done, why should the Ombudsman single out the party-list representatives? Just about all congressmen have problems of accounting for the millions of patronage funds at their disposal.

All's fair in love and war, they say, but does a member of the Cabinet have to show his love for the President by howling at the moon? There is more to public service than acting as battering ram for the administration.

Gonzalez, by his own admission, has been given his present portfolio as a reward for the yeoman's job he did during the canvassing of votes for president and vice president, but the manner in which that canvassing was done contributed to President Macapagal-Arroyo's present woes. Not only that, his penchant for spewing out nasty sound bites has gotten his boss into trouble so many times that he has become the administration official people love to hate.

Why is the President keeping this loosest of loose cannons in her official family? Gonzalez has said he'd love to serve in the President's defense panel during the impeachment proceedings. Now that the process has started, Ms Arroyo should grant him his wish and put him where he might actually do her some good. Certainly, the country doesn't need a justice secretary who is more interested in partisan mudslinging than providing justice for all.

The targets

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez's attempt to link by association former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to the series of opposition-led anti-Arroyo demonstrations suggests that the Palace has given up the effort to woo her back to the fold. But it isn't just Boncodin that the Palace is going after. The administration actually began mounting an attack against former members of the official family on the same day they announced their resignation.

So what are the members of the "Hyatt 10" waiting for? They have more than hinted that they have knowledge of things that are unflattering to the President, if not criminal outright. Things, incidentally, that are also unflattering to these former Cabinet men and women. Do they really know where the bodies are buried, and more importantly, are they willing to prove what they claim to know, even at the risk of tarnishing their own reputations?

Take one of the most vocal critics of the President from among their ranks, who once was also one of the most vocal in supporting the administration: former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman. During the presidential campaign, didn't she defend the President when the opposition questioned the retainer paid by her department to movie actress Nora Aunor? Does Soliman still think that was a legitimate expense?

The public deserves to know, so it can judge just how credible these critics are and how culpable the President is.

Finally, GMA does the right thing

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BURIED in the inside pages of newspapers and largely ignored by broadcast media early this week was the first good thing that President Macapagal-Arroyo has done in years, and I'm writing about it to encourage her to do more of the same thing. She ordered the sale by public auction of all luxury vehicles bought by government corporations, offices and agencies, with the proceeds to be remitted pronto to the National Treasury.

If only she would do more along this line—i.e., reduce abuse and waste by her officials to be able to resist the temptation to squeeze more taxes out of the people—she wouldn't have to manipulate the Malacañang Press Corps and other-media groups to get a good press.

You can be sure that government officials will try to hoodwink the President and go around the spirit of the order to continue enjoying their perks, such as manipulating the auction so that they would end up buying the luxury vehicles at bargain prices.

I don't see any logic in providing government executives, already amply rewarded with big salaries and generous allowances, with luxury vehicles at taxpayers' expense when they already have their own fleets of vehicles.

This over-indulgence is a recent phenomenon. Up to the time of President Carlos P. Garcia, even Cabinet members were not provided free vehicles. When my father was a Cabinet member during the Garcia administration, he took the bus to work until he was forced to buy with his own money a second-hand car. Up to the time of Senate President Jovito Salonga, senators were not provided free vehicles. When the senators bought vehicles with Senate money, he ordered all of them to return the vehicles, despite the vehement protestations of Sen. Rene Saguisag. When it was revealed that one education secretary and his undersecretaries bought luxury SUVs for themselves with the people's money, President Estrada ordered them to return the SUVs.

Now even councilors of poor municipalities are provided free government vehicles. The abuse is worst in government-owned or controlled corporations. As soon as a new board member is appointed, he places an order for a late-model luxury vehicle. I don't see why they have to be provided vehicles when they attend meetings only once or twice a month. And because all the members of the boards of trustees (why are they called "trustees" when they cannot be trusted?) benefit, the resolution to buy themselves new vehicles is approved quickly. The in-house auditor, who is supposed to guard the people's money, does not protest because he is also a beneficiary.

It is not only the government executive who gets a luxury vehicle. Each VIP usually has two or more escort SUVs for his bodyguards. And for each vehicle, the taxpayers have to spend for fuel, oil, spare parts, maintenance and drivers.

If GMA will only curb such abuse, the budget deficit would be reduced significantly. Now if GMA would follow this up with orders to cut all allowances by 20 percent across the board, and abolish the pork barrel, she would save enough money to make a tax increase unnecessary.

To raise more money, she should order the strict enforcement of traffic rules and the collection of all fines. This will not only restore order in the streets and discipline among drivers and pedestrians, but also raise money for the government. In time, the violators will get tired paying the fines and finally obey the rules. The collections will of course diminish, but by that time, they will have served their purpose.

It turns out that the claims of achievement of GMA during her State of the Nation Address were not only exaggerated but downright false. She claimed kidnapping had been stopped but anti-crime advocate Teresita Ang-See said that kidnapping has actually risen recently. This was confirmed by PNP Director General Arturo Lumibao whose excuse was that the police was "busy protecting the President" because of the anti-GMA rallies.

This proves the contention of resigned Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Presidential Adviser Vicky Garchitorena and other disillusioned former Cabinet members that governance has been forgotten to give priority to the survival of GMA.

GMA also said in her Sona that she has started to lick the "fiscal crisis." In the next breath, she said she would submit a P1-trillion budget. This is the first time that the budget will breach the trillion-peso mark. This, from an administration with a gargantuan budget deficit and debts that it cannot pay, and levying unconscionably high taxes on a population that has two-thirds living below the poverty level.

GMA keeps asking the people to help her administration, sacrifice, and pay more taxes and just grin and bear it. But sacrifice should be mutual. The government should set the example of sacrifice. Before it has the right to tell the people to part with more of their hard-earned money, it should show that it is also sacrificing by reducing expenses. Why can't her highly paid and high-living executives make their own sacrifices and give up part of their pay and allowances? They do this in other countries. Executives of companies in financial distress volunteer to take pay cuts to save their organizations. And no organization is in worse financial distress than the Arroyo administration.

GMA has made the first step by ordering the sale of luxury vehicles. She should follow this up with more steps to show the people she is serious about reducing expenses.

Cha-Cha: dance of maneuvered hopes

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE CONSTITUTION has many defects, but why rush the work of Charter change today, when motives are suspect and the nation is divided? Charter change will maneuver our best intentions to advance a partisan strategy merely to help GMA survive. Constitutions should be the handiwork of dream-weavers, not of schemers, plotters and conspirators.

Our Constitution was written in the flush of victory after Edsa I. It was drafted by respected men and women appointed by President Cory Aquino and drawn from the broad coalition of activists, professionals, businessmen and clergy that ended martial rule. They codified into the Charter the democratic reform agenda that inspired Edsa I, yet produced a Constitution long in rhetoric and heavy in detail. It pushed the courts "into the uncharted waters of policymaking." It created a paralyzed democracy, more concerned about checks and balances than delivering effective governance. It over-regulated business with the heavy hand of the state and, worse, with worn-out economic orthodoxies.

President Macapagal-Arroyo says, "We must begin the big debate on Charter change." Today under the presidential form of government, we elect our president directly. GMA says that a parliamentary system is better, since it is the elected lawmakers who choose the chief executive, the prime minister. We must also decentralize governance, she says, under a federal system and bring government closer to where the people live.

The presidential form empowers the people, who have been lampooned historically for choosing unwisely. The parliamentary form empowers political elites and their business patrons, who will choose the prime minister from among themselves—better educated for sure, but even more calculating and self-interested. It depends on which of them you're more afraid of: the masses and their fondness for song-and-dance campaigns, or the elite and their cash-and-carry instincts.

Decentralization also sounds good: "It's time to bring power from the center to the countryside that feeds it." But remember that the closer you get to the grassroots, the more tightly you fall into the embrace of old families and local warlords. Federalism won't deliver the Philippine government to Juan de la Cruz; it will hand it over to Doña Buding. Did you notice who cheered most lustily when GMA spoke of returning power to the countryside? They didn't look like peasants to me.

These proposals call for very serious discussion. Is such a discussion attainable, given the pressures of a presidential impeachment, and calls for the President's ouster or resignation? I doubt it. Just when we are supposed to debate along lines of policy and principle, we are torn along lines of either personal loyalty to or revulsion to GMA. Worse, a constitution must command a firm consensus from among our people, so that we can lean back on it during times of doubt and crisis. Pushing for it at a time of national confusion will weaken the moral force of any charter we can craft at this moment in history.

Even worse, GMA's proposal for fast-tracking makes it suspect. For one thing, it resembles the graceful exit proposed by former President Fidel V. Ramos on that fateful Friday, July 8, when the Hyatt 10, former President Cory Aquino, Senate President Frank Drilon and many others of consequence in our national life called on GMA to resign. She calls for the constitutional short-cut of merely converting the Congress into a constituent assembly, instead of convening a full-blown convention of especially-elected delegates. Her ouster can thus be "laundered": it will no longer be a rejection of an unloved President but merely a shift to a new governmental form. Secondly, its outcome—new parliamentary elections—will only enthrone its proponents, recycle either a past president or a failed "presidentiable" as prime minister, or reincarnate GMA as the MP from Lubao. Thirdly, add to that a surprise bonus: It can end an impeachment trial! What's the need to unseat a President if the presidency as we know is abolished?

All is not lost, however. Fast-tracking can be carried out only with the consent of both Houses of Congress, and can be blocked by the Senate. Failing that, we as a people can vote down the constitutional amendments when they are submitted to a plebiscite as required by law.

Whichever way it goes, it is sad enough to see the Constitution, the charter of our communal dreams as a people, reduced to being another weapon in the armory of partisan politics. Changing our Constitution should be our chance to reinvent our democracy, to be dreamers rather than merely tinkerers and troubleshooters. Instead, it is cheapened into a clever trick for what students call tongue-in-cheek as "*abilidad*" or streetsmarts.

We must unshackle the debate over Charter change from the partisan maneuverings of competing politicos. Let not the jousting over parliamentary versus presidential forms degenerate into the favorite topic of high school sophomores' debates. Instead, let it be an occasion for communal reflection about the big and small things we need to do for the next generation of Filipinos. Fast-tracked proposals in political reforms purport to provide the answers. They remind me of an old poster that said: "Just when I found all of life's answers, they suddenly changed the questions."

* * *

Comments to raulcp@zpdee.net

Shifting alliances in the Senate

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE DEFECTION last July 8 of the Liberal Party from the administration coalition in the Senate has ushered in a period of instability and shifting alliances as the chamber awaits the fate of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo in the House of Representatives. It has left the Senate cleaved by four cross-cutting blocs, none of which has a clear majority.

For now, although Senate President Franklin Drilon has become a political leper to administration allies after he joined the call for the resignation of President Arroyo at a time when her government appeared to be tottering on the edge of collapse following the resignation of 10 Cabinet members and senior officials, he does not seem to be in imminent danger of being toppled.

Drilon still counts on the support of 13 senators, most of them members of the majority. Among his former majority colleagues, no one appears to be mounting a serious challenge to dislodge him. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago admits she does not have the numbers (13 senators) to unseat Drilon. Sen. Manuel Villar, who has a term-sharing agreement with Drilon for the Senate presidency until 2007, is not plotting to depose Drilon, although he could make a move if Malacañang intervenes to have Drilon ousted.

The minority is not in a position to mount a challenge, partly because it is divided and does not have a rallying point. This circumstance allows Drilon to stay as Senate president.

There are now four blocs in the 23-seat chamber, and this is a recipe for instability of alliances.

As far as the Senate presidency is concerned, Drilon is backed by 13 colleagues: Sen. Juan Flavier (Lakas), three other Liberals (Senators Manuel Roxas II, Rodolfo Biazon and Francis Pangilinan), and Senators Ramon Revilla Jr., Pia Cayetano, Dick Gordon, Lito Lapid, Santiago, Joker Arroyo, Villar, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Ralph Recto.

Ranged against the 14 are the opposition senators: Sergio Osmeña, Edgardo Angara, Panfilo Lacson, Luisa Ejercito, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Jamby Madrigal, Alfredo Lim and Jinggoy Estrada. They form a bloc of eight but Angara is not a die-hard opposition man, and has a running feud with Lacson. Juan Ponce Enrile has declared himself independent.

Even in the majority, there is a sub-group called the Wednesday Group made up of Villar, Recto and Arroyo. Although Arroyo is considered part of the majority, he has shown an independent streak. The independent nature of individual senators make them behave like unguided missiles when such a contentious issue as impeachment goes to the Senate.

In his speech at the opening of the second regular session of the 13th Congress, Drilon gave notice that "our people will continue to see an independent Senate that is even more resolute in the pursuit of economic, political and social reform." He recalled that the Senate had worked hard to pass key administration tax reform measures, including the "sin" taxes and the expanded value-added tax.

He also took the occasion to justify his call for the resignation of the President. Stung by criticism over his party's withdrawal of support from the administration, he said, "I did what I did because I followed my conscience." He said the resignation of the Cabinet members and economic team "spurred concerns of possible paralysis in economic policy."

At the Kilosbayan Forum last July 22, chaired by LP chairman emeritus, former Sen. Jovito Salonga, Drilon, as LP president, said that the party asked President Arroyo to step down voluntarily but made clear the party would support the impeachment process, if she did not resign.

He said that during the past four years, the party had "voiced concern over the Arroyo administration's lack of reforms, the continuous erosion and confidence in the President's ability to govern and her diminishing credibility."

"It was not an easy decision for me and the members of the Liberal Party," he said. "But we have already come to the point where it appears that the President has already lost the trust and confidence of the people to govern our country. The controversies hounding her and the members of her family further eroded her credibility and cast doubts on her ability to govern. She has been frozen to inaction."

Because of the compromises the President made to ensure the survival of her presidency, the LP "has taken the position that she has lost the moral authority to lead the reforms," Drilon said.

He pointed out that in the nation's political history, the LP "has never been afraid to make decisions and take a position on issues for as long as it is in the national interest. [The party] has always been fearless in taking a position on issues of national importance and has never been a stranger to controversies."

The LP was born out of the great schism in the Nacionalista Party in 1945, when party leader Manuel Roxas led a splinter group to mount a challenge to President Sergio Osmeña in the first postwar presidential election. Roxas won. The two-party system emerged. The LP sponsored the controversial Parity Amendment to the Constitution.

Following its defection from the administration, the LP with four Senate members and about 30 in the House, has emerged as a pivotal element in the realignments that are expected to be provoked by the impeachment issue. Clearly, Drilon faces more anguishing moments that will require him to explain his position on critical issues.

I am sure other senators will invoke "national interest" when they make decisions. But in a fractured Senate where alignments are now blurred, there will be at least 23 definitions of "national interest."

A Fil-Am's view

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FROM MY faithful correspondent in Seattle, Ruffy Ignacio, comes this piece by Fil-Am journalist JP Paredes on current local events. The piece originally appeared in the "Filipino-American Bulletin," and I reprint excerpts here just to show how political events at home are viewed from across the Pacific. Paredes, by the way, is a member of the renowned Paredes clan of journalists (Ducky and Meiling), artists (Jim) and activists. Here's what he has to say:

GMA's admission is amazing in its temerity because, while admitting a "lapse in judgment," she appeals to the people to let bygones be bygones and to move on with her at the helm to continue her reforms... Her appeal presupposes that the people are jaded to propriety. For a candidate to talk to Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano at the height of the elections is not only inappropriate; it is illegal, immoral and repugnant to fair play. For GMA to characterize this as a mere lapse in judgment is to presume that the Filipino has such low standards of justice that she expects to be both forgiven and allowed to stay on as President.

The contents of the tape itself are devastating, a betrayal of public trust. No matter how I try to keep an open mind to see it GMA's way—that she just wanted to protect her votes and not to influence the outcome of the election—I cannot suspend my incredulity... No matter how one tries to interpret the tapes, the intent was clear—she wanted to cheat and it was likely she did.

On the other hand, there are those who call for her impeachment based on the wiretapped phone conversations. When we say wiretapped, the connotation is that of illegality. An impeachment, though a political tool, is eminently a legal process and, being a legal process, it adheres to the rules of evidence. And the rules of evidence say that a stream cannot rise above its source, that is, the tapes cannot be used as evidence, being fruits of an illegal act. Hence, even granting that GMA does not command a majority in both Houses of Congress such that the impeachment process occurs, the tapes cannot be introduced in evidence. Any admission of a mere lapse in judgment, short of admitting she cheated in the elections, does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense.

* * *

PERHAPS as a token of her alleged seriousness in fighting corruption, she has "exiled" her husband and her son abroad. Excuse me, hello, why is it that the usual excuse used by people whenever there is a scandal is the weakest defense of alibi? ...Whenever a rubout of criminals occurs, top police officials say that they were far from the scene. The same is true of politicians whenever political shenanigans are exposed. So, does this mean that Mike and Mikey Arroyo will no longer be involved in *jueteng* payoffs and other forms of corruption simply because they are away?

Heck, I'm an ordinary man living a quiet family life in Seattle but I can make things happen in the Philippines. How much more the husband and the son of the Philippine President? It's called telephone, fax, e-mail, instant messaging, online banking—in a word, technology.

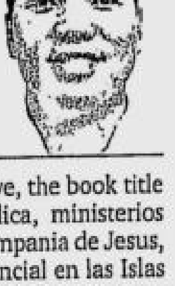
Be that as it may, the three stooges—Mike, Mikey and Iggy—are but distractions from the main show. GMA is the issue and the three stooges are just the front act in a macabre political zarzuela where the performers will not (escape) unscathed. Not Namfrel that lost much of its credibility together with Jose Concepcion and Bill Luz, nor the so-called "civil society" that lost its luster with the grant of privilege; not the Comelec, not Congress, not the members of the opposition who have no moral moorings. Not Ping Lacson who launched his "Be Not Afraid Movement" when people should be very afraid if he ascends to the throne. Not Noli de Castro who does not inspire our imagination as a leader of note, and certainly not Erap Estrada who is damaged goods. Not Frank Drilon or anybody in his Senate, whether majority or minority. The Supreme Court is not itself a shining beacon of hope so it must watch its steps very carefully to maintain its moral and intellectual ascendancy.

* * *

THERE appears to be some obfuscation of the issues. The Philippine intelligentsia could not seem to agree on a single solution. My take on it all is simple (and probably simplistic, so please forgive my naiveté): If GMA cheated during the elections, then she should resign or be driven out because she is just a squatter in Malacañang. Whether or not there is a credible successor does not matter... The law states the rules of succession. If Noli de Castro, the Vice President, is tainted by GMA's cheating, then the Senate president succeeds.

I know that GMA's resignation will not solve the problems of the Philippines that are so deep and call for more profound solutions. Some constitutional changes may be in order, but a silver bullet they're not. Rather, it is a whole slew of solutions including a massive moral regeneration of the populace, from the top to the bottom of government, private institutions and ordinary citizens. But this does not mean that GMA should not resign—just that it is a good start. In a nation that winks at widespread graft and corruption, that punishes rebellion with pushups and elects putschists to the Senate, and where cheating is characterized as a mere lapse in judgment, resignation is not considered an option. In an honorable culture like Japan's, by comparison, the slightest hint of dishonesty is automatically followed by resignation and by swift justice, even *seppuku*.

Rare and valuable books



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

OVER THE YEARS, books have taken over my living space. My bookshelves are full, so are table tops, chairs, and even the floor. Despite a drastic weeding of the collection a few years ago and placing books in my office, I still share half of my bed with books. Books will soon run me out of the house.

There is no end since bookstores are my weakness, particularly the bargain bins that challenge my budget and self-control. At Powerbooks, Greenbelt the other day I wondered how and why the store orders books that will end up on sale. For example, I was tempted to acquire a boring academic book on Pangasinan drama and balance it with a guidebook on how to keep tarantulas. The only thing that kept me from producing my credit card was not considerations of space at home but rather the fact that I don't read Pangalatok and I don't know where I can buy a live tarantula in Manila.

One can never tell the kind of books people buy. My sister's godfather used to brag about the seven-volume "Owners' Guide to the Boeing 747" in his home library, showing us one volume that taught you how to fly a 747 and a separate volume on troubleshooting a 747. These were totally useless books, but they had real snob value because one could not get them without buying or owning a 747. God only knows, which secondhand shop these books came from.

Two weeks ago, in Christie's London was an auction on "Exploration and Travel: Asia" that surprisingly had a significant number of Filipiniana lots on offer, mostly books and some maps. The price estimates seemed reasonable except that the peso is so low when converted into dollar or euro. Worse, one had to add a premium to the hammer price and, of course, factor in the cost of a trip to London to bid and bring the loot home.

I sent the auction catalogue to Dr. Leovino Garcia, dean of the Ateneo School of the Humanities, who also nurtures a passion for old maps. His advice was that I go for two books by Jesuit authors Francisco Colin and Pedro Murillo Velarde. The catalogue entries were very impressive, the book title alone kilometric: "Labor evangelica, ministerios apostolicos de los obreros de la Compania de Jesus, fundacion y progresos de su provincial en las Islas Filipinas. Parte primera sacada de los manuscriptos del Padre Chirino, el primero de la compania que passo de los Reynos de España a estas islas. Madrid: Joseph Fernandez Buendia, 1663."

The book is valuable not only for its maps and illustrations but the contents as well. Christie's described it thus: "A superb copy of the first edition of the best seventeenth century work on the Philippines and the first book on the archipelago to be of scientific value for its survey of flora, fauna, geography and languages. It is partly based on the unpublished manuscript of Pedro Chirino of the Philippines, 1585-1618, by Colin a member of the Jesuit mission at Zamboanga. In five books, of which the fifth is a listing of Jesuit colleges, churches and residences throughout the Philippines and including Ternate, in Indonesia and Borneo. The work also contains biographies of Christian Japanese noblemen who found refuge in Manila from the persecutions in Japan. The Segunda Parte by Pedro Murillo Velarde was not published until 1749 in Manila, and updated the history of the province from 1616-1716."

I haven't checked if the lot was sold and at what price, but the pre-auction estimate was $5,500-$9,100. Gosh, I would have to pawn my mother for this book, and one still had to buy the companion volume with its wonderful map of the Philippines by Nicolas Bagay at an estimated $7,300-$11,000. This book is: "Historia de la Provincia de Philipinas de la Compania de Jesus Segunda Parte, que comprehende los progresos de esta provincia desde el ano de 1616 el de 1716. Manila: en la imprenta de la Compania de Jesus, 1749."

For the map alone, one would have to pay the same price in Manila today. And here was a copy of the entire book complete with the frontispiece by Laureano Atlas. If I had the money, I would get both books, but if I could only have one it would be the Murillo Velarde.

Where did these books come from? If they were from one single library or collection, who was interested enough in the Philippines to keep these works? Are there other Filipiniana materials that came with the books but were not placed on auction? The owner knew his Filipiniana because there even is a 1736 Kapampangan grammar and an early 19th-century Cebuano grammar, among other works offered that were only found in libraries.

Yet for a Filipino bibliophile, the most important lot was not in the Philippine section but listed under Pacific Voyages—the one by Transylvanus Maximilianus, which was described as follows: "Second Rome edition of the first voyage around the world by Ferdinand Magellan, 1519-1522. First published in Rome by Calvi in November 1523 on 19 leaves of 30 lines. Maximilianus was the Secretary of Carlos V, for whom Magellan sailed, and a relation of Magellan's shipmate and friend, Christopher Haro. Maximilianus was a pupil of Peter Martyr when Magellan's surviving ship Victoria returned to Spain in September 1522, and Maximilianus was instructed to interview the survivors..."

Estimated price for this book printed in 1524 was set at $55,000-$73,000.

Books were collateral damage in the Battle for Manila in 1945, so we have to look westward and pay good money to recover part of our heritage.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Fat and thin

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A FEW months ago while standing in a queue at the Centennial Airport to check in for a flight to San Francisco, I suddenly realized I was surrounded by a lot of very obese Filipinos. I couldn't interview each of the "suspects" but their accents (and constant whining, "Jesus, why is the line so long?" and I'm sure they weren't trying to talk to God) and their clothes (shorts, T-shirts and sneakers which, admittedly, make the fat look fatter) told me they were mostly Filipinos now living in the United States.

Ah, I thought, how sad that the affluent life in America—giant-sized servings of food, having a car, an office job where stapling papers is the heaviest physical labor you'll ever do—may actually produce many potential health problems, maybe even shorter life expectancies.

'Supersize Me'

For years now, we've been bombarded with studies connecting obesity to higher risks for a long list of diseases—from back problems and osteoporosis to diabetes and heart diseases. The alarm bells rang loudly, the mass media warning about millions of fat people in danger of premature deaths.

This was well dramatized in the film "Supersize Me," where the lead actor (who was also the producer and director) subjected himself to a month of pure unadulterated McDonald's food and drinks. As a proper scientific study would have it, he had himself weighed and had his blood chemistry taken before the diet, the weighing and tests repeated regularly as he went through the regimen.

As he put on more weight, his worried doctors warned him of possible irreversible damage to his heart, liver, kidneys. On a more banal level, his vegetarian girlfriend was interviewed as well lamenting on how the McDonald's diet was ruining her boyfriend, including an under-performing Manoy.

There, I should be catching the attention of male readers now. Yup, the long list of obesity's grim effects includes problems there, although I do wonder if it really matters: with all that abdominal blubber, you probably wouldn't notice anyway. Out of sight, out of mind.

'Taba, payat'

While waiting in that airport queue, I wondered too how our Fil-Am friends now greet each other. It's all too normal in the Philippines (and many parts of Asia) to comment on a friend's weight as part of greetings: "*Uy, ang taba taba mo ngayon* (You're getting fat)" and that's meant as a compliment.

In a country where under-nutrition is so widespread, fat is actually seen as a sign of health, prosperity, success. Men feel they're being complimented as good providers when they're told their wives are *taba*, and mothers feel their parenting skills are being praised when their children are described as *taba*.

On the other hand, a greeting of "*Uy, pumapayat ka* (You're losing weight)" comes through as ominous, almost like, "Do you have cancer?" (Or tuberculosis? Or AIDS?) I should know, being on the lean side. I'm saying lean, which is different from *payat*. Note that we don't have Filipino words for lean, which has positive connotations: to be "lean and mean" evokes fitness, which is how I feel most of the time... until I get greeted, "*Pumapayat ka,*"—*payat* meaning skinny, scrawny, starving.

Fat, as *taba*, is good in the Philippines. Women even judge *hiyang*, or the fitness of a contraceptive brand by the way it makes them gain weight, not realizing that the weight gain is actually a side effect of the pills, one which Western women dislike.

Times do change, much to my delight. While people my age now worry about heart disease and diabetes, I can just smile, gloating at being *payat*. "Uy, you look younger than your picture in the INQUIRER," people will say and I'll go, with feigned modesty, "No *naman*," followed by a vengeful, "You know, we *payat* people don't age as quickly."

Suddenly *payat*'s good. While poor Filipinos complain about how difficult it is to stretch their household budgets for food, the well-off pay through their nose to lose weight: expensive membership fees in fitness clubs, the latest brand-name jogging outfits and sneakers, Bangkok pills, books explaining Atkins, South Beach, or whatever the latest diet fads are.

Body in the mind

Let me get back to my airport story. Eventually everyone did get checked in and we took off without incident, although I have to admit I did have a momentary panic attack as we waited for the flight to leave, wondering if the plane could take off with all the pudgy Fil-Ams. How come, I thought, airlines charge for excess baggage but not for overweight passengers?

Yet, wonder of wonders, the day after I arrived in the States, the papers all had front-page articles about a new study downplaying the dangers of fat, claiming that being overweight wasn't a bad thing, that in fact they lived a bit longer than thinner mortals. It was obesity, meaning very overweight and which was said to affect a smaller percentage of Americans, that meant shorter life expectancies.

Immediately, that news brought protests and accusations that the research was flawed. Columnists asked about the sponsors of the study. Could it have been the fast-food industry, or others who stood to gain from getting people to gain weight?

But lo and behold, other wise commentators noted how the protesters also had their own vested interests. It turns out America now has an entire "fat industry": people who gain from getting people to lose weight. These are the ones who tout lose-weight diets, the owners of the fitness farms, even the cosmetic surgeons who do lipo and staple abdomens. In so many words, these are the ones who tell you: "Fat's bad for you" and snicker behind your backs, "But it's good for us."

So take it from *payat*: I think we need some balance. We do tend to overdo things. Young girls, encouraged to eat all they can so they'll be cute, suddenly hear a change of tune. Praised as cuddly before, they're now told they're pudgy. So you have 8-year-olds wondering if they should lose weight. In a few years, we'll probably have more cases of anorexia, where people literally stop eating for fear of putting on weight and being ridiculed.

My bias is still to be on the lean side, especially as we grow older. It's bad enough how age slows us down, bones and joints creaking, without extra weight slowing us down even more. But if you honestly feel good on the heavier side, well and good. Society can be really bothersome, dictating what your "correct" body size should be.

I tend to think the body's in the mind. Don't look at yourself as fat; think voluptuous. And to my fellow emaciated Filipinos: We're not skinny; we're slim, slender, sleek, svelte. I know, that's four adjectives versus voluptuous. I'll be kind: Fat's...let me think...fat's, well, *seksi*.

But *payat*'s sexy (pronounced *zekkkkzzy*).

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Cha-cha: a senseless proposal

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's die-hard supporters in her Cabinet and Congress conveniently point to the Constitution, which they have consistently violated in every way from day one of her presidency (as shown by the *jueteng* scandal exposé and the election fraud revelation in the Hello Garci tapes).

On the other hand, GMA finds comfort in the loud avowals of loyalty coming from the top leadership of the military, one more institution sadly mired in corruption scandals. These are the pillars that GMA hopes will prop her administration up.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos has come forward to make a proposal, supported by GMA, to change the form of government from presidential to parliamentary, unmindful that any form of government run by the same men who have debased the country for five decades cannot be better. Worst of all, the amendments to the Constitution are to be made by a constituent assembly to be formed from a Congress with a pork-barrel mania.

Ramos has caused our nation enough misery. He will do us a favor if he keeps his ideas to himself. If he must say something, he can start by explaining the controversies that engulfed the nation during his watch, such as the PEA-Amari deal, Centennial Expo and IPPs, which ushered this nation to economic disaster.

—EP DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St.,
Philamlife Village, Pamplona,
Las Piñas City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Not everything is political

YEARS ago, a book was published with the title, "Everything is Political, but Politics is not Everything." Indeed, everything is political as the recent statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines is. Or, as demonstrated by the INQUIRER photo of President Macapagal-Arroyo praying in Lipa on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel last July 17.

I fully agree with what former Justice Isagani Cruz said in his column that politics is not everything. Not everything in the current crisis is political. The disappearance of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and the lack of political will on the part of Malacañang to compel him to surface and shed light on the tapes are a moral issue. So is the lack of credibility of the President.

Any head of office with a record similar to that of the President would be dismissed by her or his board on moral grounds!

—TON DANENBERG,
mcd@laguna.net

GMA's Sona

The following readers' responses to the ongoing national crisis were sent to the Inq7 forum "Talking Points" (http://www.inq7.net/index_network.htm). They have been condensed to fit into this forum.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

[IN HER Sona, the President] asked Congress to change our 1987 Constitution and government from presidential to parliamentary (whatever that is). Those on the administration side made a big fuss of it even if what was [said] was different from reality.

Now she bats for a change in our Constitution without first resolving the "Hello, Garci" scandal. I believe change should start from our leaders. If they really amend the Constitution, they must include the prohibition against more than one member of the family up to the first degree running for office.—**Jerry Javellana, Cleveland, Ohio**

* * *

I am not and will never be enthralled with the Sona, be it from a President or a wannabe. Like any other Filipino, I'm more interested in the Sona as: (1) State of Noranians Abroad, (2) State of Nora Aunor, (3) Simple Observers Needing Answers, (4) State of National Apathy, (5) Seize and Order National Abrogation of all government properties, (6) State of National Activism.

I'd rather open my website to all those real events like red-plate vehicles seen in dubious places, wantonly disregarding and flouting traffic laws; agencies that require a million follow-ups for a mere signature, and all the extra-constitutional ways people who tax us have been used to.—**Armand Mauricio, Los Baños**

* * *

Instead of engaging in real issues [to] strengthen the investment climate, almost the entire nation, with media at the center stage, wastes effort pitting political personalities against one another. We are not a banana republic but an arena of political cockfights abetted by an overzealous media that thrive on conflict. Who really wins in this? Political opportunists in the short term and media in the short-to-medium term. Everyone else is a loser.—**Mike Santos, Antipolo**

* * *

We were on the rise [after] Joseph Estrada left our coffers nearly empty despite the global rise of petroleum prices, thanks to the brilliant minds of GMA's economic team. The way she manages the economy matters more than the perceived cheating she probably did along with the pack.—**Minh Apil, minh_apil@yahoo.com**

* * *

It's clear how Ms Arroyo tries to cling to power. Who's she trying to fool? It doesn't matter what form of government is in place if it's run by the same godfathers. Charter change, my ass. It only diverts people's minds from the real cause of dissatisfaction.—**Abe Dejesus, Dejesus.Abe@colteng.com**

* * *

The political system is inherently flawed. To start with, one needs over P3 billion to fund a presidential campaign. Obviously the winner would expect to be compromised in a big way even before he/she assumes office. Only big business and vested interests can fork out such an amount. This system, in effect, takes competent potential leaders with the highest integrity out of the equation. Let's not naively expect the most honest to lead our country if we accept this flawed political structure.—**Gerry Ditching, gerry@filgifts.com**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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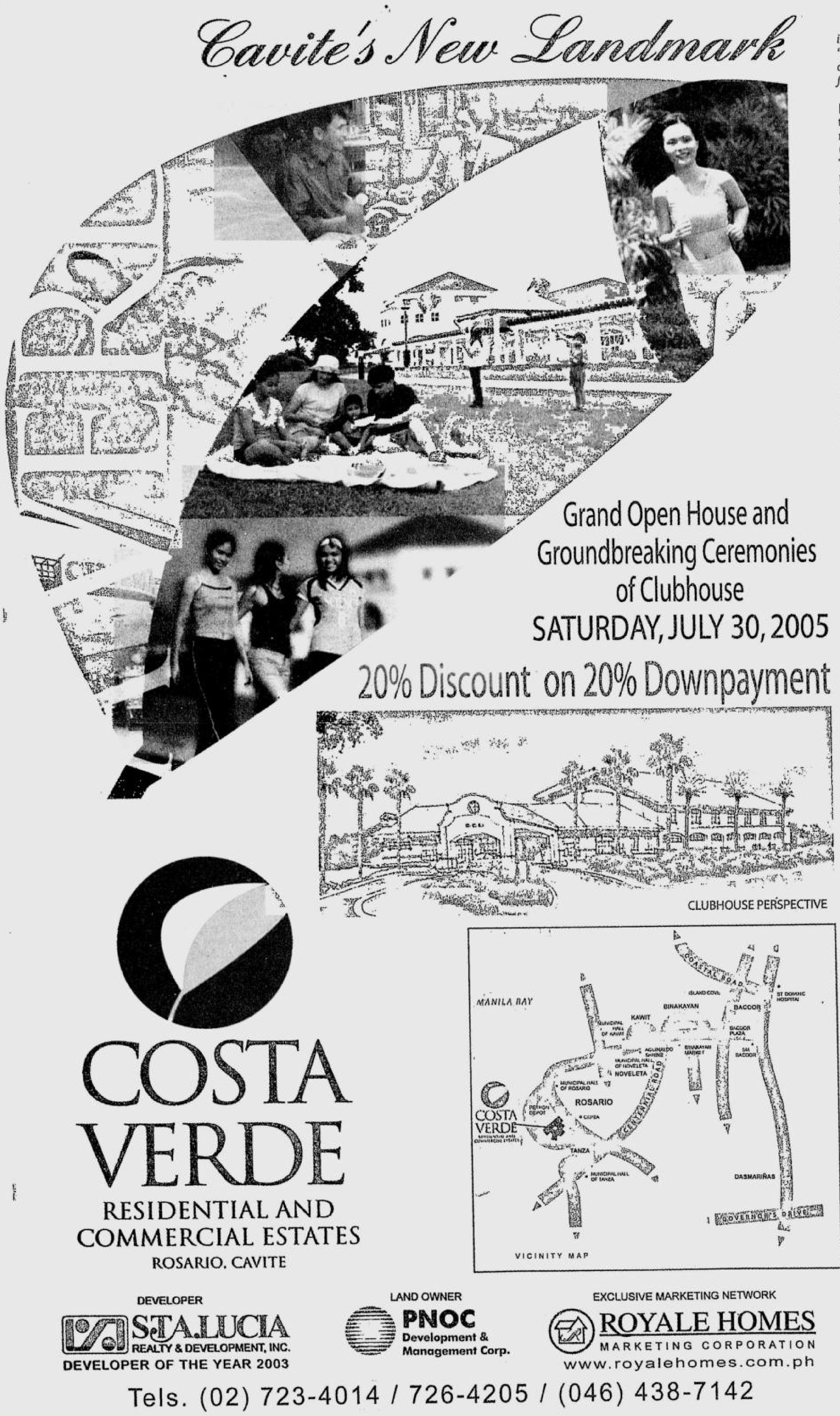
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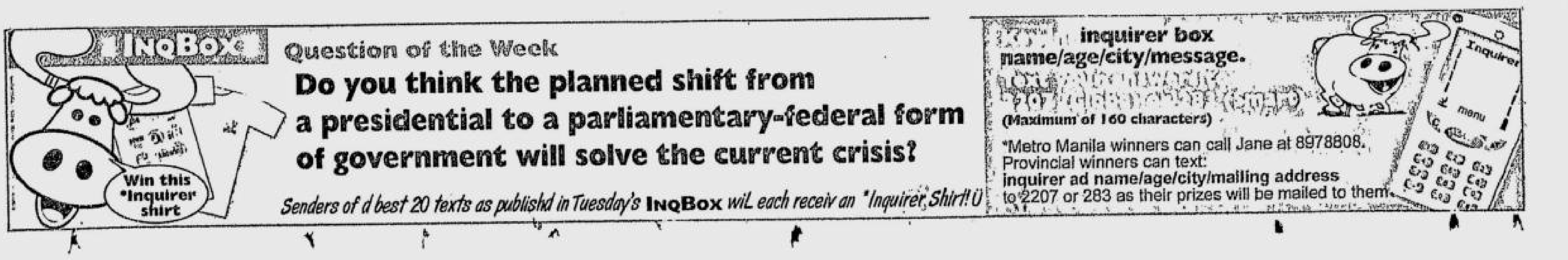
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Big traders corner NFA rice supplies

Program for farmers' co-ops used to 'manipulate' allocation

TABACO CITY—The supply of rice imported by the National Food Authority (NFA) from Vietnam has found its way to big rice traders in Bicol through the NFA's Institutionalized Farmers As Distributors (Ifad) program.

Truckloads of rice are being released from the warehouse of the NFA provincial office in this city since last week after a series of shipments of imported rice from Vietnam that were unloaded in this city's international port.

The truckloads of rice were reportedly intended for NFA-accredited farmers' cooperatives.

Eden Redillas, NFA Albay provincial manager, said Ifad was established to help farmers who had been complaining that no one was buying their palay during harvest season.

Redillas said that through the Ifad, a farmers's cooperative sells its palay stock to the NFA and the agency in return gives it imported Vietnam rice.

The cooperative is then free to distribute the imported NFA rice.

But small accredited NFA distributors in this city have been complaining that they cannot buy rice from the NFA despite the presence of the newly arrived rice imported from Vietnam.

A rice trader, who requested not to be named, said the NFA office here refused to sell rice to them saying its stock had already been allocated to accredited cooperatives.

But the cooperatives, he claimed, are from outside the Bicol region and already had negotiated with NFA before the importation arrived.

Redillas confirmed that there were some cooperatives from outside the region that got their rice supply here since the unloading was done in Bicol.

Among these cooperatives are the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries of Tuguegarao and Iloilo, Movement for Self Alliance, and Narmangawan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, also in Iloilo.

These cooperatives have sold the NFA rice allocated for them to some big businessmen in Bicol.

Redillas said the Narmangawan Multi-Purpose Cooperative sold 1,052 bags of rice to a certain Christin Cea of Naga City.

But a source inside the NFA, who requested anonymity, said six truckloads of rice were delivered to Cea.

Other truckloads were reportedly delivered to a certain William Co, a businessman in Polangui, Albay.

Redillas added that after the NFA had released the product, it had no means of monitoring its destination. She said that under Ifad, an accredited organization or cooperative is free to look for its own buyers.

But she clarified that the release of NFA rice must have the approval from the NFA directorate for marketing. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ANAK, GANYAN BA KASAMA ANG LUTO KO AT KUMAIN KA NG HILAW NA ISDA ?

Worker learns swallowing whole fish risky

BACOLOD CITY—A sugar worker accidentally swallowed a live *tilapia* fish on Tuesday morning while fishing in a river in Bago City, Negros Occidental and was hospitalized.

Nilo Lena, 24 and a resident of Barangay Mao-ao, was immediately brought to the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRC) after he had difficulty breathing.

Nandy Lena, 58, said his son was now in a stable condition after the fish was removed on Tuesday afternoon.

He said a tube was inserted in his son's throat to pump out the fish that was stuck near the lungs.

Hospital sources described the fish as "the size of three fingers put together."

According to Nandy, Nilo was fishing in Bago River in Barangay Ma-ao with brother Rogie and a friend identified only as Marjun at about 8 a.m. on Tuesday.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Woman dies, 1 missing as floods sweep W. Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A 65-year-old woman was killed and another person was still missing after floods spawned by two days of heavy rains swept Western Visayas.

Cristeta Lastimosa drowned on Wednesday after her house was swept by strong currents in Sitio Bagatnan, Barangay Poblacion in the capital town of Jordan in the island-province of Guimaras, according to a report of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Western Visayas.

Fidel Juayno, of Barangay Guinbangga-an in Laua-an town in Antique, was missing after he was carried by the water current while crossing the Paliwan River at Barangay Igkicab in Laua-an town.

The RDCC reported that 107 villages were flooded, making life difficult for 15,215 families or 80,141 persons in the provinces of Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Guimaras and Antique.

Iloilo City was worst hit with all of its six districts hit by flooding, prompting the city council to declare the city under a state of calamity.

Classes were suspended in most schools on Wednesday after two days of heavy rains flooded major areas in the city.

Waters reaching three feet high in some areas were reported in 64 of the total 180 barangays. The number of families who suffered in the city reached 10,835 or 54,175 persons.

At least 10 families were evacuated from Barangay Sooc in Arevalo District to the barangay's day care center on Wednesday night, said Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas.

Negros Occidental was the second worst hit, with floods hitting Bago City and the towns of San Enrique, Pontevedra, Pulupandan and Valladolid. The towns have a total 39 villages and 5,536 families or 28,002 persons.

San Enrique and Pulupandan towns were placed under a state of calamity due to extensive crop and infrastructure damage.

"We expect the damage to crops, with 90 percent of our land planted to rice, to be extensive because of the flooding," said San Enrique Mayor Jilson Tubillara.

He said seven of 10 barangays were flooded. He had to deliver food by boat to Barangay Batuan in San Enrique because the roads were impassable due to the floods.

Pulupandan Mayor Luis Mondia said 90 percent of the town was flooded Wednesday. "Many of our crops have been destroyed and fishponds have overflowed. The extent of the damage is bad," he said.

Antique
Iloilo
San Jose
Iloilo city
Jordan
Bacolod city
Guimaras
Negros Occidental
area enlarged

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Your right as consumers to call a wider public at promo rates stated above is based on the above National Telecommunications Commission's **immediately executory** Order dated June 14, 2005 in NTC Case No. 2005-022, captioned "Innove Communications, Inc. versus Smart Communications Co. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company", relevant portions of which read as follows:

> "When tested against the above guidelines and principles outlined in the statute and NTC Circulars, it is clear that respondent PLDT is committing unfair rate discrimination practices with respect to the **implementation** of its P10.00 Unlimited NDD Call Promo.
>
> **xxx xxx xxx**
>
> Indeed, there is no basis for respondent PLDT's failure to accord Globe and Innove the same preferential access charge treatment it had given to the other carriers **under the said promo**. In fact, the law and the rules prescribe **the same and/or uniform rates** in the computation and **implementation** of access charges.
>
> **xxx xxx xxx**
>
> WHEREFORE, respondent PLDT is hereby directed to **extend** the same preferential access charge rates under its P10.00 Unlimited NDD Call Promo to complainant Innove Communications and Globe Telecommunications Inc., **during the effectivity period of the said promotional offering** failing which, the Commission shall impose all applicable fines and penalties including the issuance of a cease-and-desist order on this service offering.
>
> **xxx xxx xxx**
>
> **This Order takes effect immediately."**

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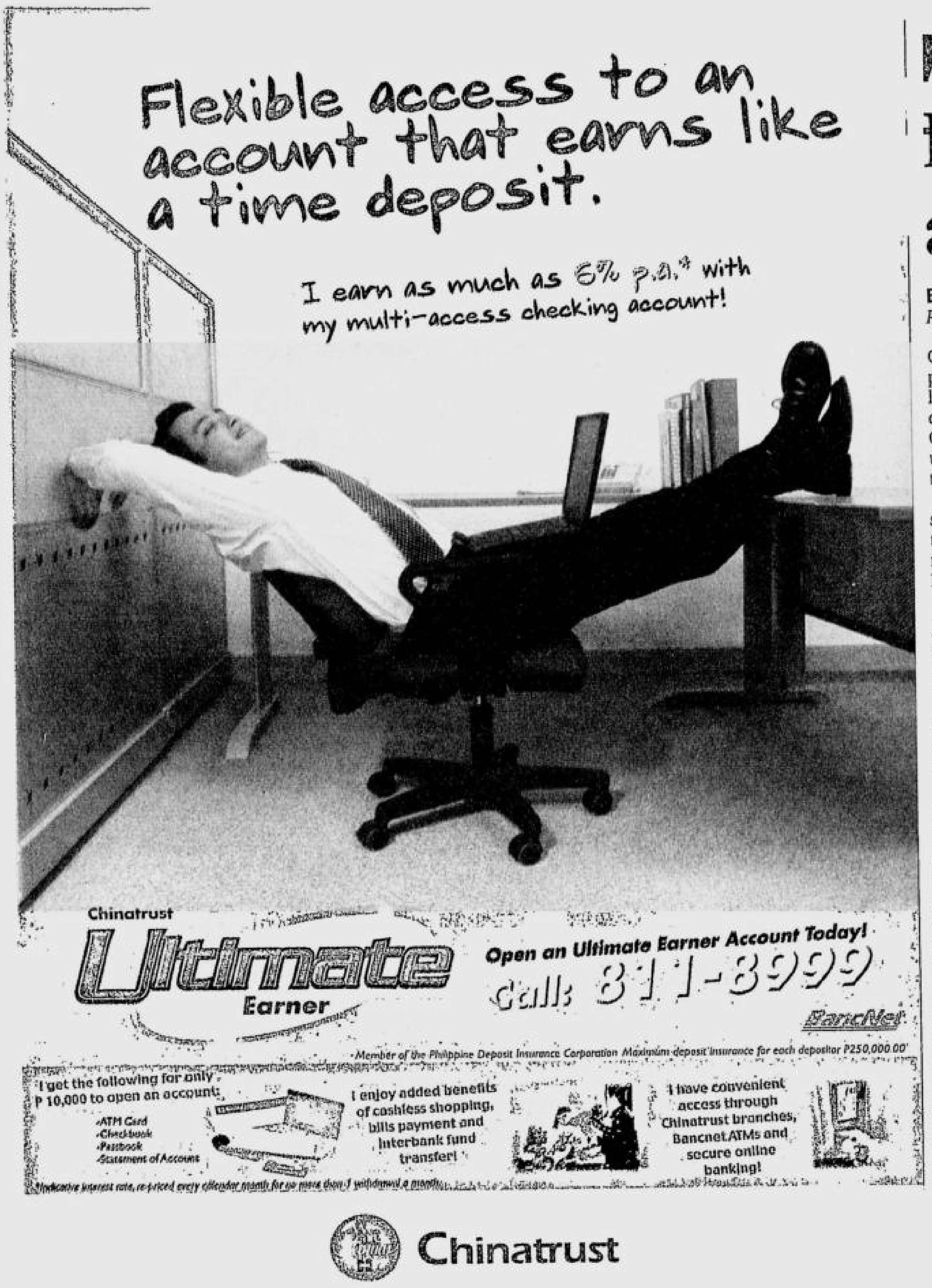
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Chinatrust

P200M lost in fire at Customs warehouse

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Over P200 million worth of property, including seized and abandoned luxury vehicles, went up in smoke yesterday dawn when fire gutted the warehouse of the Cebu Ports Authority (CPA) here that was also used as a storage facility of the Bureau of Customs.

Among those destroyed were more than 20 slightly used vehicles that were set to be auctioned off by the Bureau of Customs next month, said Cebu Customs Collector Lourdes Mangaoang.

These include four Kia Sorrentos, two Rextons, some Hyundai cars, Starex vans, right-hand drive Mitsubishi vehicles, motorcycles, big bikes and replacement parts of the vehicles.

Mangaoang said the value of these vehicles and motorcycles, as well as other goods stored inside the warehouse, could reach about P100 million.

The fire also destroyed at least 30 container vans, including those that contained raw materials, which arrived last Monday and were intended for companies at the Mactan Export Processing Zone.

Mangaoang said she was informed by customs broker Al Lantixi, the president of the Chamber of Customs Brokers, that the shipment alone for MEPZ was also worth about P100 million.

The Bureau of Customs used as storage facility a portion of the warehouse, a sprawling building that occupied almost a hectare inside the CIP.

The warehouse also housed the offices of the Police Maritime Office in Central Visayas, Starlite Cargo Express Inc., Oriental Port and Allied Services Corp. (Opascor) and the CPA field office.

The fire of still unknown origin started at the Starlite office at about 3:55 a.m. and was put under control at 4:45 a.m., said Cebu Fire Marshall Esmael Codilla.

FILE photos of some of the burned vehicles.

He said firefighters were not able to put off the fire immediately as they had to protect themselves from the exploding bullets from the Maritime Office.

"We have to seek cover out of fear that we might be hit by bullets," he said.

But it was Mangaoang who was saddened most by the fire as it would affect her target revenue collection next month.

Mangaoang said she expected to collect at least P30 million from the auction of the vehicles and from the processing fees for the release of some goods.

"I was about to cry. We are projecting that we will be able to raise revenues at least P30 million from those goods by next month," she said.

She recalled that these vehicles were placed outside the warehouse. So, she told her personnel to place these inside the warehouse so it would be protected from sunlight and rain.

"I even ordered good vehicles inside the storage area preserved, but these were instead burned inside the bodega," Mangaoang said.

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ROUNDUP

Miner dies in tunnel collapse

CEBU CITY—A miner was killed Wednesday morning when a coal mine collapsed in Dalaguete town, 85 km south of this city, due to heavy rains for several days. The fatality was identified as Luciano Villacorta, of Barangay Salog, Dalaguete, said SPO4 Lope Magno Belciña, town police chief. He said three other miners escaped with minor injuries. They were Melquiades Ybañez, Violito Villacorta and Ronito Amagan. Police said the miners were repairing the roof of the coal mine's tunnel in Sitio Maantod, Barangay Dumalan. But the roof, made of Ipil-ipil branches, gave in. Luciano's body was retrieved from a pile of coal muck past 1 p.m. on Wednesday by his colleagues. The mine is operated by Taiwanese Yang Tung Yang.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Soldiers reminded: No politics

BAYAN MUNA, BAWAL ANG PULITIKA!

DAVAO CITY—Incoming Army chief Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon urged soldiers in Mindanao to avoid involvement in politics. Esperon, currently head of the military's Special Operations Command, said soldiers should stay apolitical, follow the Constitution and the chain of command. "Always remember these three things that we are serving: The Constitution, people, and the duly constituted authority," he said. Esperon was here Tuesday as rumors about junior officers joining the campaign to oust the President circulated.

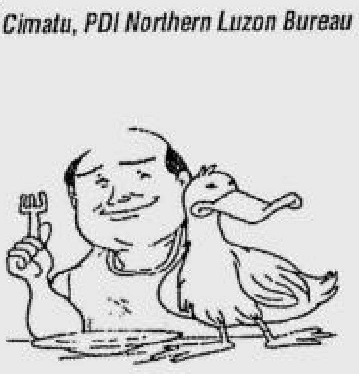
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cops return to units

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—At least 54 Abra policemen, who were reassigned to various parts of the Cordillera in April this year, have returned to their former units in the province. Chief Supt. Noe Wong, Cordillera police director, said the policemen composed the first group that would be reassigned to Abra after the more than 350-member provincial police force was relieved in April. The relief was ordered by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes to stop policemen from being used by local politicians in their private armies. Wong said the move to return the policemen to Abra came as the number of reported crimes in the province decreased from April to June this year. He said the next batch of policemen would return to their former posts in Abra within six months.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Duck feast held



CALUMPIT, Bulacan—Officials here staged an "*itik* (duck)" eating festival on Thursday to prove that the town was free from the deadly bird flu virus. Mayor James de Jesus said they held the festival to help erase the negative image of this town following earlier reports that a deadly strain of the virus had been found among ducks raised in a backyard farm in Barangay Pungo. On July 18, however, results of confirmatory tests on blood samples in Australia turned out to be negative for the H5N1 virus causing the deadly avian influenza, the Bureau of Animal Industry said. During the festival, local women danced to the tune of "Itik-Itik" while dishes such as *adobo*, fried and *calderetang itik* were served in front of the town hall.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Raps vs mayor dismissed

SANTIAGO CITY—The Ombudsman last week dismissed the criminal and administrative complaints filed against Mayor Amelita Navarro over allegations of graft and grave misconduct. The complaints were filed by resident Silverio Bermudez who questioned the use of city government-owned equipment for a resort run by the mayor's family. The seven-page resolution approved by Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez said the anti-graft court did not see any evidence to penalize Navarro for misconduct. It said Dr. Jose Navarro Jr., the mayor's husband and general manager of the Punta Amelita Resort in Cordon town, presented documents showing the resort's contractor had paid the city government P66,193 in rent for the equipment.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Pro-GMA Bicol solon says no to Cha-cha

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI S. Luzon Bureau

VILLAFUERTE

NAGA CITY—The current political turmoil hounding the Arroyo administration can not be resolved through Charter change and change of government but within the Constitution, according to a congressman here.

Expressing the structural, operational and procedural dimensions of Charter change, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, a lawyer and ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said what is needed now was to follow the rule of law and the Constitution.

"The remedy is to go through the impeachment process, wherein the President can be accorded due process by presenting her defense in a proper hearing," Villafuerte said.

While Villafuerte acknowledged the growing sentiment favoring Charter change through constitutional convention, he said, the major obstacle was, in shifting to a parliamentary system by adapting a unicameral legislature, it must pass the required 18 votes or two-thirds of the 24-seat Senate.

He said majority of senators would oppose a one-chamber parliamentary body because the Senate would be abolished.

"Also, part of the reason the senators would oppose is that there are those who won in national elections but will lose in the parliamentary district elections," he said.

Villafuerte said before convening a constitutional convention or a constituent assembly, there should first be a series of consultations between the Senate and the House.

He added that the consultations must also include the civil and religious groups and the labor and farmer sectors, among others, in order to determine a package of revisions to the Constitution.

Villafuerte said the package could only be arrived at after the determination of a consensus-building mechanism.

He said civil groups, some religious leaders and members of the academe, were in favor of a constitutional convention instead of a constituent assembly.

"In considering Charter change therefore, we must not make haste by studying thoroughly the best option to resolve the political problem within the rule of law," Villafuerte said.

"While it is easy to agree on the generalities, going into the brass tops of the revision of the Constitution is very difficult on the specifics," he added.

Villafuerte said Congress would also have difficulty in reconciling timetables for its other legislative functions.

He said federalism was more complicated than Charter change.

"In federalism, there must be condition-precedents, the clear-cut delineation of the powers of the regional states as distinguished from the national federal government and the local governments," he said.

Villafuerte also cited contentious issues in the reallocation of resources among the national federal government, the regional states and the local governments that, he said, must be prescribed reasonably and acceptable to each government unit.

NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF PRUDENTIAL BANK

To All Stockholders of Prudential Bank:

Please be advised that the Bank of the Philippine Islands ("BPI" or the "Buyer"), is offering to purchase from stockholders of Prudential Bank (the "Company") at least 6,574,162 common shares of the Company (the "Shares"), representing 80% of the outstanding common shares of the Company and up to 8,217,702 Shares, representing 100% of the outstanding common shares of the Company for cash at an Offer Price of P 746.4374 per share (the "Tender Offer") under the terms and conditions attached hereto as Annex A ("Terms of the Tender Offer").

In connection with the Tender Offer, the Buyer filed on July 28, 2005, a Tender Offer Statement ("SEC Form 19-1") with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulation Code.

Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, stockholders of the Company may tender all or a portion of their Shares for acceptance and purchase by the Buyer beginning 9:30 a.m. of August 1, 2005 until 12:00 noon of August 26, 2005 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Buyer subject to prior approval of the SEC.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Buyer may do so by securing an Instruction to Tender Shares form (the "Instruction Form") from the Company, the Depository, the Transaction Arranger or the PSE Public Information and Assistance Center and submitting a duly accomplished Instruction Form together with: (i) The original copy of stock certificates of the Company duly endorsed (for certificated Shares); (ii) If the stockholder is a corporation, a notarized corporate secretary's certificate setting forth the pertinent resolutions of the tendering stockholder's board of directors or equivalent body authorizing the tender and sale of the Shares and the designated signatories for the purpose including the latter's specimen signature; and (iii) If the stockholder is an individual, a photocopy of a valid identification card with signature to be presented together with the original copy.

The Depository, the PDTC Participant and/or the STA reserve the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Buyer **must be received by the Depository in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of August 26, 2005.** Shares received thereafter or without the required documents may be rejected by the Buyer. To ensure that the Depository receives the Shares in scripless form within the Tender Offer Period, the tendering stockholders should submit the required documents: (a) to the Depository, for certificated Shares, at least 5 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period, or on or before August 19, 2005, to allow for lodgement of the shares with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") before the end of the Tender Offer Period; or (b) to their stockbroker or custodian (the "PDTC Participant"), for Shares lodged with their PDTC Participant, at least 3 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period or on or before August 23, 2005, to allow for the electronic transfer of the Shares to the Depository before the end of the Tender Offer Period.

Tendering stockholders may withdraw any Share tendered by sending a written notice of withdrawal to the Depository or the PDTC Participant (as the case may be) together with their copy of the Instruction Form duly conformed and accepted by the Depository or the PDTC Participant any time before the end of the Tender Offer Period. Shares shall be returned in the same form it was received to the PDTC Participant (if previously lodged with the PDTC Participant) or to the tendering stockholder (if previously certificated) within ten (10) trading days from the end of the Tender Offer Period. The cost of returning the Shares shall be borne by the stockholder making the withdrawal.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Buyer for payment on August 29, 2005 (the "Closing Date") subject to the fulfillment of following conditions on or before the Closing Date: (i) the Buyer shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Buyer of the Shares; and (ii) Eligible Shares representing at least eighty percent (80%) of the Company's outstanding capital stock or 6,574,162 Shares shall have been delivered to the Depository.

Prior to the commencement of the Tender Offer Period, the Buyer has put the Offer Price due on One Hundred Percent (100%) of the outstanding capital stock of the Company in escrow with the Purchase Price Escrow Agent, Bank of the Philippine Islands - Asset Management and Trust Group.

Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, the Paying Agent shall make available for pick up from its office, checks in payment for the Shares equal to the total purchase price less stock transaction taxes plus the tendering stockholders' pro rata share of any interest earned on the escrowed funds (net of applicable taxes and escrow fees). Check payments for certificated Shares shall be made in the name of the tendering stockholder for pick-up by the tendering stockholder or his/its duly authorized representative. When collecting payment, the tendering stockholder is required to present the Instruction Form duly conformed and accepted by the Depository together with proper identification documents. His/its duly authorized representatives shall be required to present an authorization letter from the tendering stockholder. Check payments for Shares lodged with a PDTC Participant shall be made in the name of the PDTC Participant. Beneficial owners are advised to arrange with their PDTC Participant on the manner of collecting payment for their Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Instruction Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1. For queries, please call any of the Company, the Depository or the Transaction Arranger at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Instruction Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the Company, free of charge, from the following:

- Prudential Bank
  3/F Prudential Bank Building, 6787 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
  Attention: Ms. Yvette B. Rosete at (632) 812-7558

- BPI Securities Corporation as Depository, Crossing Broker and Paying Agent
  8/F, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  Attention: Ms. Janet D. Amora at (632) 845-5617 or Mr. Jasper M. Jimenez at (632) 816-9190 or 92

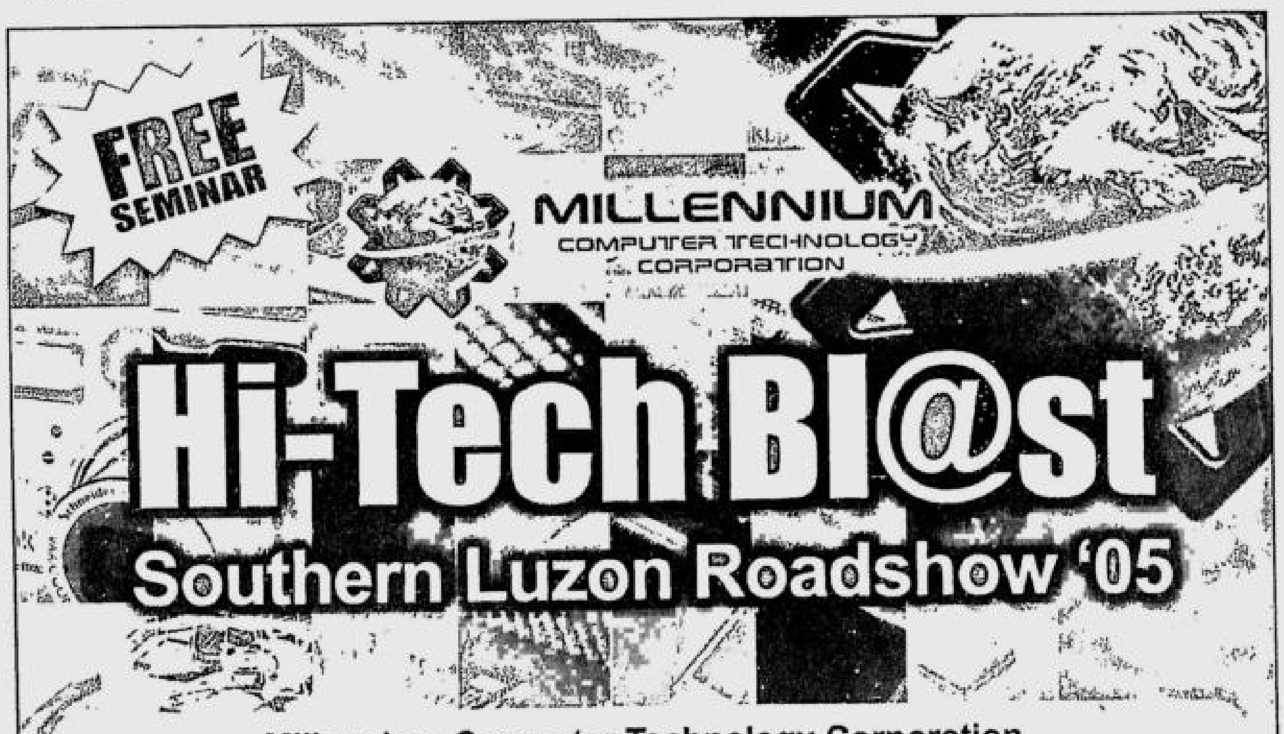
- BPI Capital Corporation as Transaction Arranger
  8/F, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  Attention: Mr. Luis C. Urcia at (632) 816-9102 or Ms. Barbara C. Untalan at (632) 816-9491

- The PSE Public Information and Assistance Center
  G/F PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
  Attention: Ms. Arlene Edades at (632) 688-7601

- PSE website at www.pse.org.ph

By:
Bank of the Philippine Islands

[Original Signed]
Aurelio R. Montinola III
President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12:30-1:00 - Millennium Corporate Introduction
1:00-2:00 - Seagate
2:00-3:00 - Prestigio
3:00-3:30 - Breaktime
3:30-4:00 - Microsoft
4:00-4:30 - Lexar
4:30-5:00 - Q & A & Raffle

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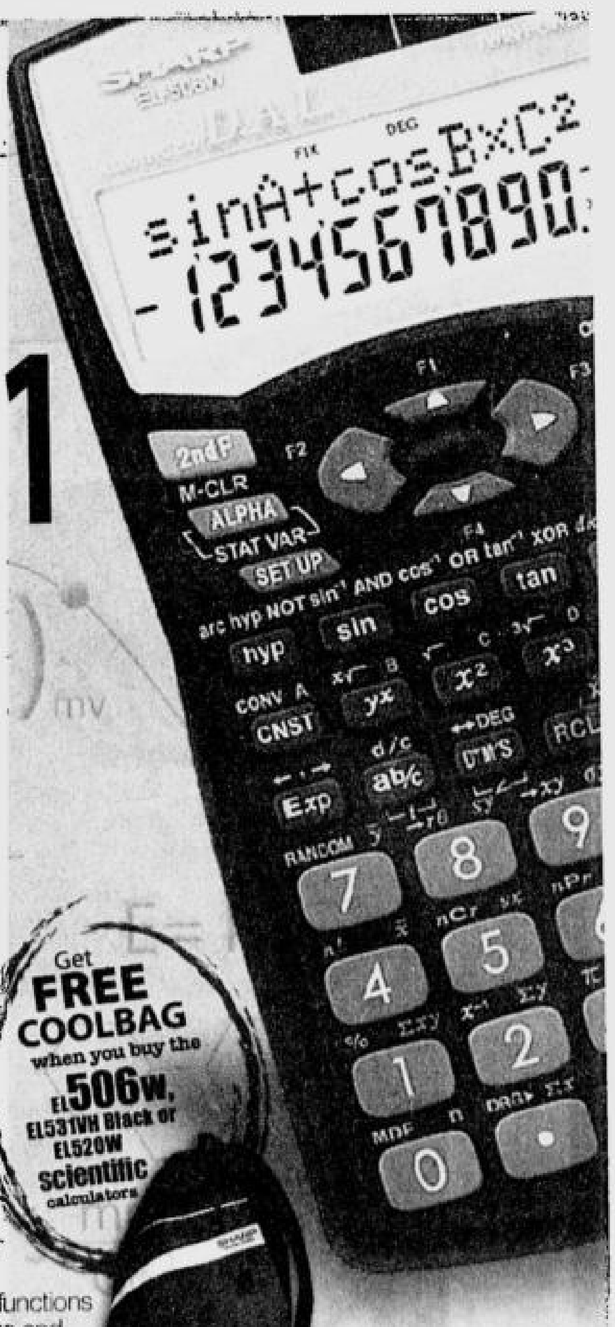
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Ghosts of aborted Erap impeach trial haunt Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE GHOSTS of the aborted impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada continue to haunt Congress.

During heated plenary debates Wednesday night on the proposed rules on impeachment, lawmakers quarreled over the constitutionality of "creeping impeachment"—a term coined by lawmakers to describe the gradual collection of signatures until the required 79 signatures are met so that the Articles of Impeachment will move up to the Senate for trial.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, principal sponsor of the seven-page proposed rules, enunciated the majority position.

Lagman said that the constitutional provision that a third of the House membership of 236 could shortcut the process could only happen by affixing the 79 signatures right at the filing of impeachment complaint.

Without the required numbers, the complaint will pass through the House justice committee to determine its "sufficiency in form and substance" within 60 days, and whatever its resolution or finding will be subject to a plenary vote.

Lagman said that barring the existence of enough signatures in the filing stage, the one-third vote "would not come into play at any time," thus Section 15, Rule 4 of the proposed rules prohibiting a creeping impeachment was in order.

He said the "creeping campaign" in the Estrada case could not be used as a precedent because "settled is the rule that a void act like in the Erap (Estrada) impeachment process cannot be reincarnated to validate a subsequent or projected wrong."

Exorcise

But Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano shot back, saying, "The ghost of Estrada in relation to Gloria is the ghost of double standard in Philippine politics."

Cayetano, impeachment spokesperson for the minority, said that those in the opposition during the Estrada regime, who were now identified with the majority, "are doing the same thing that they criticized when they were in the opposition, and those in the administration are doing what they were defending before."

He said advocacy was based on personal interest, rather than public interest.

"Loyalty to the party must end where loyalty to the country begins. That is what rule of law is all about—not rule of majority, not rule of men. Leaders should be consistent with their stand," he said.

"The way to exorcise these ghosts is for us to do away with double standards," said Cayetano, noting that Lagman had served as private impeachment prosecutor during Estrada's trial.

Tailor-fitting

He said the majority now, especially those who had impeached Estrada, were "tailor-fitting the rules to favor GMA."

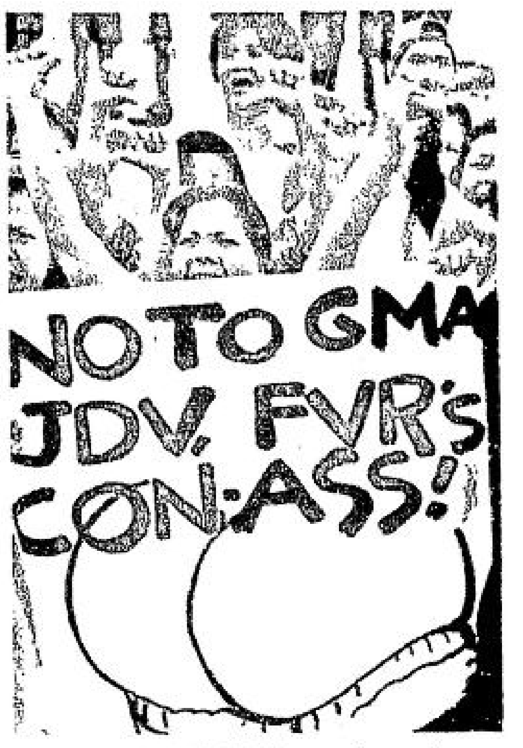
But Lagman explained that there were only three instances contemplated by the Constitution that allowed the gradual collation of signatures—during the initiatory stage (or upon filing), when the plenary rejects a finding of the committee on justice that the complaint is not sufficient in substance, and when it overrules a finding that there is no probable cause and thus the case should be dismissed.

Interpellating Lagman, Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez, impeachment prosecutor during Estrada's time, disagreed that the automatic transmittal to the Senate could occur only after the justice committee had finished hearings on "sufficiency in form and substance."

'Very wrong'

"That is very wrong," said Martinez, recalling that the impeachment case lodged against Estrada in October 2000 bore only 42 signatures when it was endorsed to the justice committee.

But when the complaint gathered 77 signatures (one-third of the House membership at the time) in November of the same year, then Speaker Manuel Villar promptly transmitted it to the Senate without waiting for any report from the justice committee.



WHAT'S IN A NAME? Charter change by any other name whether Con-con or Con-ass, stinks as much. Which is the message of the militant Akbayan group as it condemns constitutional amendments to provide "a graceful exit" for President Arroyo. JOAN BONDOC

GMA has 'walls of defenses' . . .

From page A1

plaint is strong and there is probable cause against the President."

"If they have tons of evidence, we have great walls of defenses against those charges," Ms Arroyo's lawyer Pedro Ferrer told The Associated Press. "We believe those charges are weak as manifested by the fact that they're threatening to go to the streets if they fail. That's a premature threat."

Opposition lawmakers have warned that an attempt by pro-Arroyo legislators, who have a strong majority in the House of Representatives, to spike the complaint could set off huge protests. "People power" revolts have ousted two presidents in the past two decades.

Ferrer said Ms Arroyo's legal team was busy preparing her defense, frequently conferring with the President, and was confident she would be cleared.

Complaint 'weak'

"I think the President deserves to be acquitted because the evidence of the proponents of the impeachment complaint is weak and the people will accept that," he said.

Ms Arroyo is accused of violating the Constitution, betraying public trust, corruption and bribery for allegedly using election officials to rig the May 2004 vote and the military and police to ensure her victory. Other charges are obstruction of justice, unexplained wealth, human rights violations, tax evasion, misuse of public funds, approving flawed contracts and receiving illegal gambling payoffs to fund her campaign.

Opposition lawmakers were trying to elicit testimony from 10 former Cabinet members and senior officials who quit last July.

Critical to the case are wiretaps allegedly of Ms Arroyo speaking to an election commissioner about ensuring at least a million-vote victory. Ms Arroyo has apologized for talking to an election official before the results were announced, but denied manipulating the outcome.

Wiretaps of about 15 phone calls, purportedly between Ms Arroyo and the election official widely identified as Virgilio Garcillano, were allegedly made by military intelligence agents in a covert operation.

To back wiretap evidence

Ferrer said the defense would block moves to use the wiretaps as evidence because they were illegally obtained.

The impeachment complaint will be tackled by the House committee on justice, which will evaluate evidence.

If the complaint wins the support of at least one-third of the 236-member House, Ms Arroyo would face trial by the 23-member Senate, where political realignments could strengthen the ranks of minority opposition members.

Villanueva said that after the impeachment rules would have been ironed out next week, the House justice committee would rule on whether the complaint was sufficient in form and substance by Aug. 10.

By Aug. 15, the President would be officially notified about the complaint and would be given five days to answer. The complainants would then have three days to reply.

"By the first week of September or the last week of August, we will start our hearings," he said.

Villanueva said that the minority would be prepared to present its case should Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, who sponsored the rules during plenary debates, insist that the justice committee already determine whether there is probable cause against the President when it reviews the complaint's substance.

Villanueva said that the majority should allow the opposition to present witnesses and other evidence, and not just make them dependent only on the annexes included in the complaint.

Protest threats

"If they do that then we have no other recourse but to withdraw the complaint and go to the streets. It was the President who urged us to take our complaints to Congress and the majority should not debase the process," he said.

Villanueva said that the approval of the rules was being delayed because the Palace was still trying to convince lawmakers not to sign the impeachment complaint and instead support Charter change.

He noted that congressmen from the majority would show up during the first few minutes of the debates on the rules but would later disappear from the session hall.

He said projects worth P10 million were being dangled before lawmakers, besides offers of government positions for allies of these congressmen.

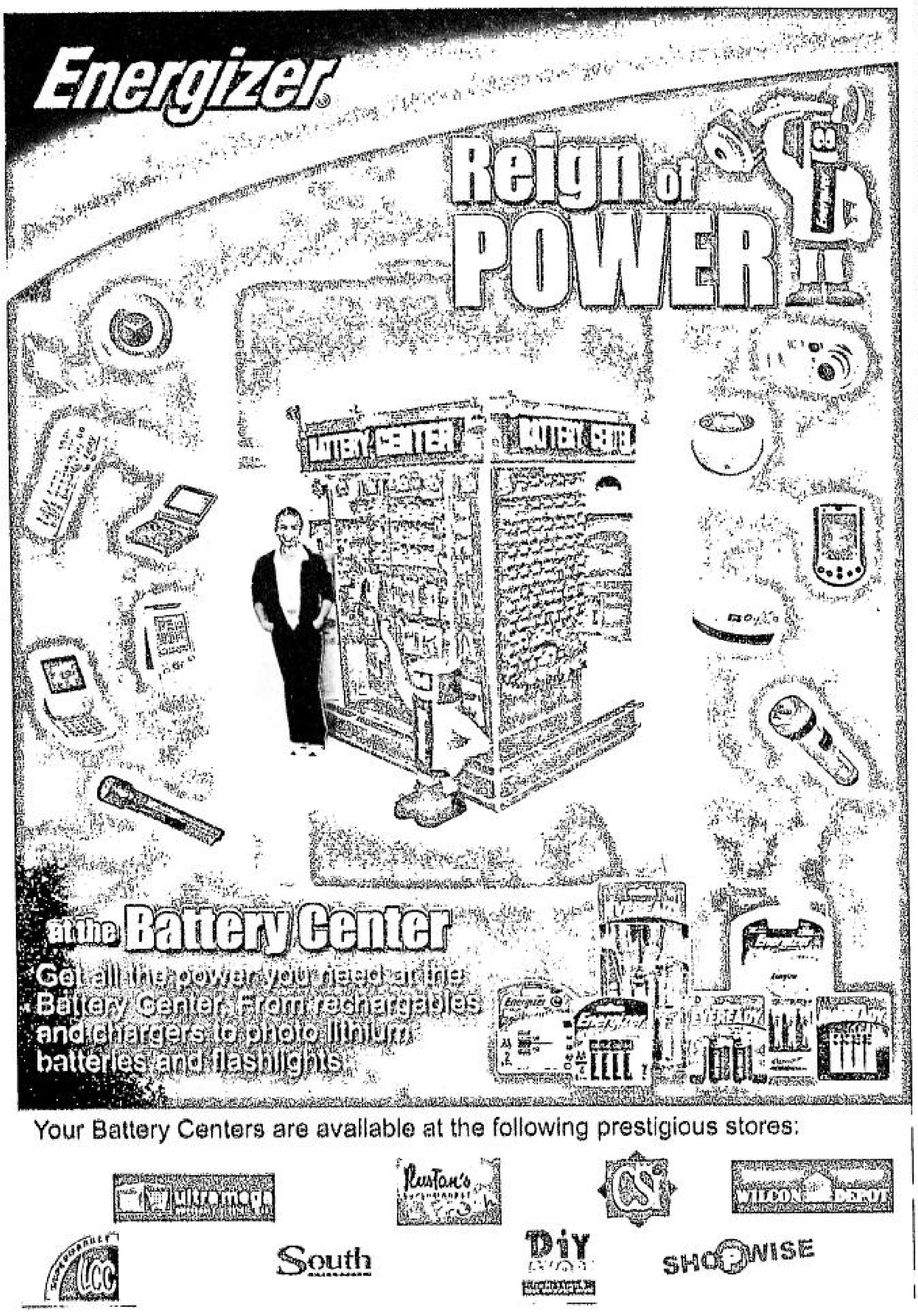
Wish list

"The wish list includes positions in different government agencies like those for undersecretary or assistant secretary," Villanueva said.

Some lawmakers themselves were also contributing to the delay since they were waiting to see if the Palace would still make more concessions.

"We are appealing to the members of the majority. We are ready to stay overnight and pass the rules on impeachment but the issues we're going to raise, including amendments, will just be inutile because members of the majority who will approve it are not around," Villanueva said.

"I suspect that this is because they're more interested in their wish list's results from Malacañang," he added.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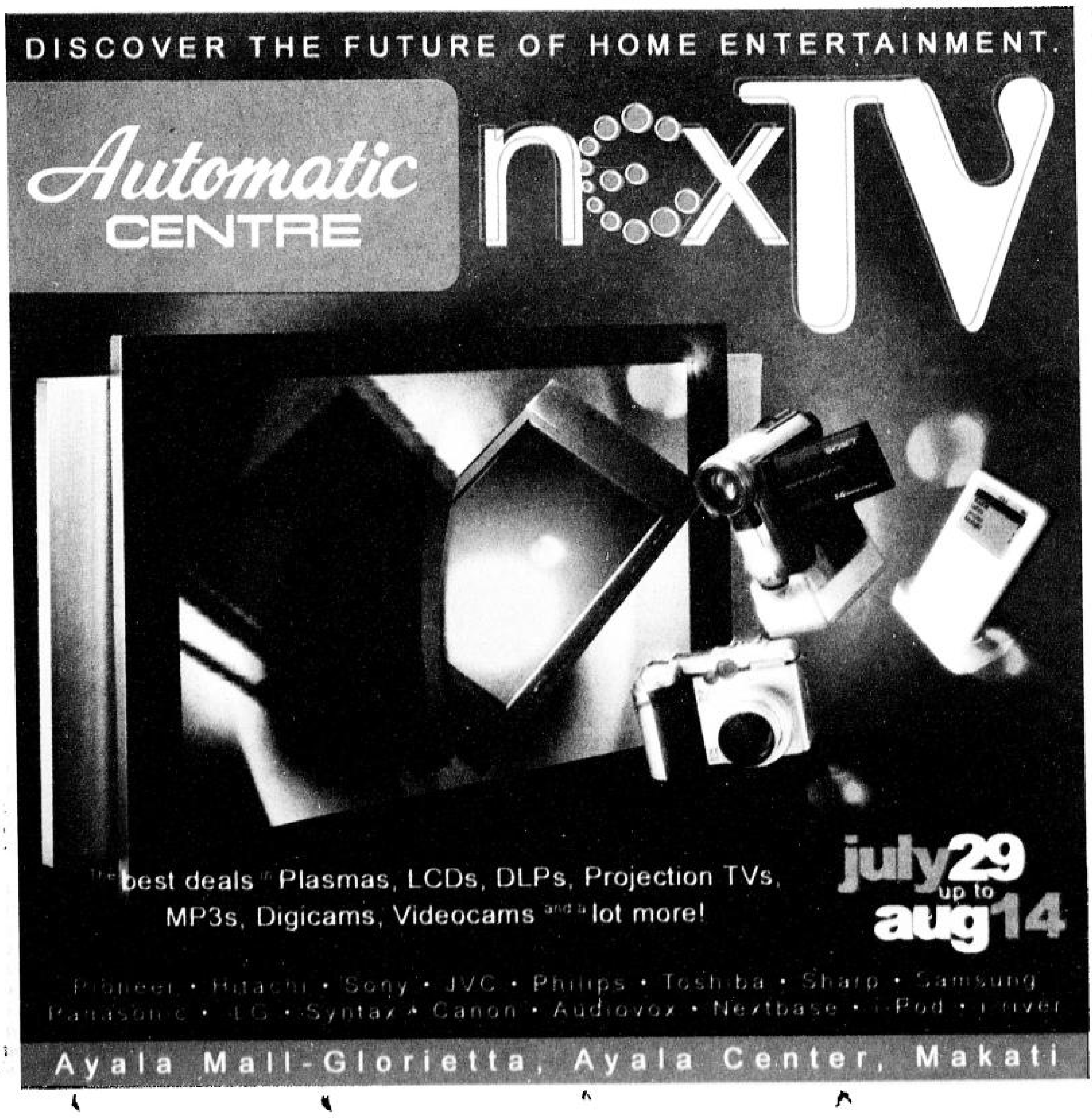
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Ex-governor to testify on 'Jueteng-gate'

From page A1

to testify in the Senate hearings.

The witness rebuffed her and told her he would not lie if asked about the incident, the source said. Pineda immediately left for Manila, it was learned.

Last night, President Arroyo flatly denied that she was present when the wife of an alleged jueteng lord allegedly distributed gambling payoffs to election officials shortly before the 2004 polls.

"That's not true," President Arroyo said in Filipino, in an interview over GMA 7's 24 Oras program, when asked to comment on the new allegations against her by a new witness of Cruz.

"Sobra na ang aking trial by publicity (It's too much)," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said she respects due process and the rights of the accused, and expressed the hope that her own rights as an accused would also be respected.

Ms Arroyo has been fighting off calls for her resignation for the past two months amid serious allegations that she tried to rig last year's presidential elections and that her family had benefited from jueteng.

'Media mileage'

She is also facing an impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives.

"Anybody can make allegations," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said of the new witness' claim.

In a news briefing, press statement and even radio interviews, Bunye yesterday said the latest charges against the President were "desperate attempts to gain media mileage as the Senate is already on the verge of ending the inquiry."

According to the witness' account, as narrated by Cruz, Ms Arroyo witnessed each of the 13 Comelec regional officials receiving P2 million in cash from Lilia Pineda, provincial board member of Pampanga and former mayor of the President's hometown of Lubao.

The accusation was swiftly denied by Malacañang.

Zoilo Perlas, Comelec director for Central Luzon, said he did not receive P2 million from Pineda or met her in a hotel in Manila days or weeks before the 2004 elections.

Leave of absence

Pineda took a leave of absence two weeks ago and has been in the United States since, according to Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, the provincial board's presiding officer.

Three people whom the INQUIRER reached to contact Pineda on Wednesday night either did not answer calls or said she could not be reached.

Another, who is an aide, said Pineda preferred not to make any statement at the moment. But the aide defended her boss, saying Pineda would not give the bribe. She declined to confirm if Pineda was in the United States.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said the new witness could turn out to be "super-explosive" if his or her testimony were corroborated by other witnesses or supported by pieces of documentary evidence.

"He or she must be a material witness. The testimony, if credible, will link the 'Jueteng-gate' to the election fraud," Lacson said in an interview.

"[But] in the absence of a corroborating testimony, we will just rely on his credibility. It will be word against word," he said.

Another opposition lawmaker, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, agreed with Lacson, saying he expected "damning evidence" if the witness' testimony were corroborated.

"That could point to the President's involvement in jueteng and election fraud," he said in an interview.

Protecting rights

Administration Sen. Richard Gordon proposed that the Senate investigating panels thoroughly sift through the affidavits of new witnesses and invite the accused to present counter-affidavits to ensure a fair hearing.

"A lot of people have been hurt by allegations during the hearings. Enough is enough. We have to protect the rights of the people," he said.

Bunye said that during the previous hearings, the witnesses were unable to present proof on their claims that close relatives of Ms Arroyo benefited from jueteng payoffs.

"We're confident that they don't have any evidence to support their claims," he told reporters, referring to the latest allegations.

In a statement, Bunye said the witnesses of Cruz had already been given their day before the Senate "but clearly proved nothing."

"It is time to move on and address the real business of economic and political reforms," he said.

Villar, who heads the committee on public order and illegal drugs, allayed fears that the investigation would be terminated soon. He said he would coordinate with Cruz to set a new hearing "as early as next week."

New resource persons

A staff member of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, chair of the committee on games and amusement and co-chair of the inquiry, said he and Villar were scheduled to meet on Monday to discuss the next set of resource persons and set the next hearing.

Their committees last held their hearing on July 12.

Earlier, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged Villar and Lapid to immediately resume the inquiry into the illegal numbers racket and summon the new witness.

"The two investigating panels should not terminate the investigation until the testimonies of vital witnesses are heard. I believe that more hearings are needed," Pimentel said.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal suggested that the Senate summon Pineda to its hearings, saying that reports on her supposed involvement in the payoffs to Comelec directors were disturbing.

As a former mayor of Lubao and second-term board member, Pineda shied away from events held during Ms Arroyo's visits to Pampanga.

Wedding sponsor

This was especially true after the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, said to be the patron of Bong Pineda, according to local officials, who requested not to be identified.

A source in the provincial board said Pineda did not believe that she would easily warm up to the President even if she was a Kapampangan.

The source of the spat was when then Vice President Arroyo spoke on national television to say that she sought first the approval of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin to stand in as sponsor in the wedding of the board member's only son, now Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda.

"*Bala mu naman marok yang tau ing anak ku* (As if my son was a bad person)," the source said, quoting Pineda's reaction to Ms Arroyo's statement.

The same source said the Pampanga official would not stake her reputation on the line for her husband.

In the 2000 "Jueteng-gate" hearing, Pineda appeared on behalf of her husband who was summoned to the Senate, but she persistently gave answers of "I don't know."

An angered Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago shot back by commenting on the kind of marital relationship the Pinedas had.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

GMA finds comfort zone outside Metro

From page A1

national level.

She said 13 of 16 governors in the Visayas region had signed a manifesto agreeing to cut ties with the central government if Ms Arroyo were ousted unconstitutionally and had agreed to study the implications of their move to "chart our own destiny."

"The political crisis has taught local officials many valuable lessons," she said.

"We should not let ourselves be affected by too much politicking in Manila. Manila is not the Philippines."

'Dragging us down'

Few analysts believe there is a real danger of the country breaking up, noting that Ms Arroyo may be encouraging such bold statements as a way to discourage her foes from unseating her.

But the two-month-old crisis has brought to the surface deep divisions in the country and awakened resentment in the provinces at the domination by distant, unpredictable Manila and its often chaotic politics.

Local political leaders often complain about Manila's tight grip on national purse-strings and yearn to have more financial autonomy. Officials in southern Mindanao say one reason for widespread poverty and conflict there is that they send more tax to Manila than they get back.

Pandora's box

Cebu City residents, which is separate from Cebu province, have long pushed for more freedom from Manila, citing the city's strong economy and its different ethnic and linguistic background to the Tagalog group that predominates in Manila.

Earl Parreño of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms said he doubted the "sincerity and seriousness" of threats to break away from the republic.

PRESIDENT Arroyo

But he said that by pushing for constitutional shift to a parliamentary form of government within a federal system, Ms Arroyo may have opened a Pandora's Box.

Ralph Sarmiento, a lawyer from the Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines, said there had been huge interest in federalism in recent weeks.

Sudden interest

"Before, I would have to invite myself to a regular city council meeting in Bacolod to explain the merits of a federal system," Sarmiento told Reuters, referring to the main city of Negros Occidental.

"Now, I'm booked weeks ahead and the room is always packed with local officials wanting to find out more about the federal form of government under a parliamentary system." *Reuters*

LIST OF GOVERNORS AND THEIR STAND

(as of July 28, 2005)

THOSE WHO SUPPORT GMA

PROVINCE	NAME	POLITICAL PARTY
ILOCOS SUR	SINGSON, LUIS CHAVIT	Lakas
LA UNION	ORTEGA, VICTOR FRANCISCO C	Lakas
PANGASINAN	AGBAYANI, VICTOR E	Lakas
BENGUET	MELCHOR, BORROMEO P	LDP
MOUNTAIN PROVINCE	DALOG, MAXIMO B	LDP-Laban
CAGAYAN	LARA, EDGAR R	NPC
QUIRINO	BACANI, PEDRO L	LP
NUEVA ECIJA	JOSON, TOMAS III N	Balane-NPC
PAMPANGA	LAPID, MARK T	Lakas
TARLAC	YAP, JOSE SR V	NPC-SST
ZAMBALES	MAGSAYSAY, VICENTE P	Lakas
BATANGAS	SANCHEZ, ARMANDO C	LP
LAGUNA	LAZARO, TERESITA S	Lakas
RIZAL	YNARES, CASIMIRO JR M	PMP
MARINDUQUE	REYES, CARMENCITA O	Lakas
PALAWAN	REYES, MARIO JOEL T	Lakas
CAMARINES NORTE	TYPOCO, JESUS JR O	Lakas
CAMARINES SUR	VILLAFUERTE, LUIS RAYMUND JR F	Lakas
CATANDUANES	VERCELES, LEANDRO JR B	Lakas
MASBATE	KHO, ANTONIO T	Lakas
SORSOGON	LEE, RAUL R	Lakas
ALBAY	GONZALEZ, FERNANDO V	Independent
CAPIZ	BERMEJO, VICENTE B	LP
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	MARAÑON, ALFREDO G	NPC
GUIMARAS	NAVA, JOAQUIN CARLOS RAHMAN A	LP
AKLAN	MARQUEZ, CARLITO S	Lakas
ANTIQUE	PEREZ, SALVACION Z	LP
BOHOL	AUMENTADO, ERICO B	Lakas
CEBU	GARCIA, GWENDOLYN F	Lakas
NEGROS ORIENTAL	ARNAIZ, GEORGE P	NPC
SIQUIJOR	FUA, ORLANDO SR B	Lakas
EASTERN SAMAR	EVARDONE, BEN P	LDP
LEYTE	PETILLA, CARLOS JERICHO L	NPC
WESTERN SAMAR	TAN, MILAGROSA T	LP
SOUTHERN LEYTE	LERIAS, ROSETTE Y	NPC
BILIRAN	ESPINA, ROGELIO J	Lakas
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	YEBES, ROLANDO E	PDSP
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	CERILLES, AURORA E	NPC
ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY	HOFER, GEORGE T	LDP
CAMIGUIN	ROMUALDO, PEDRO P	Lakas
MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL	OCAMPOS, LORETO LEO S	Lakas
LANAO DEL NORTE	DIMAPORO, IMELDA Q	Lakas
DAVAO DEL NORTE	GEMENTIZA, GELACIO P	Lakas
DAVAO ORIENTAL	PALMA GIL, MARIA ELENA T	Lakas
COMPOSTELA VALLEY	CABALLERO, JOSE R	Lakas
SULTAN KUDARAT	MANGUDADATU, DATU PAX S	Lakas
SARANGANI	DOMINGUEZ, MIGUEL RENE A	Lakas-SARRO
NORTH COTABATO	PIÑOL, EMMANUEL F	Lakas- Lihok Cotabato
AGUSAN DEL NORTE	AMANTE, ERLPE JOHN M	lakas
AGUSAN DEL SUR	PLAZA, ADOLPH EDWARD G	Lakas
SURIGAO DEL NORTE	BARBERS, ROBERT LYNDON S	Lakas
SURIGAO DEL SUR	PIMENTEL, VICENTE JR T	Lakas
LANAO DEL SUR	ADIONG, MAMINTAL	Lakas
MAGUINDANAO	AMPATUAN, DATU ANDAL S	Lakas
SULU	YUSOF, JIKIRI H	Lakas
TAWI-TAWI	MATBA, RASHIDIN H	Lakas
BASILAN	AKBAR, ABDULWAHAB M	Lakas

THOSE WHO WANT GMA TO QUIT

ILOCOS NORTE	MARCOS, FERDINAND JR R	KBL
CAVITE	MALIKSI, ERINEO S	LDP-Magdalo
QUEZON	ENVERGA, WILFRIDO L	KNP
ILOILO	TUPAS, NIEL D	LP
NORTHERN SAMAR	DAZA, RAUL A	LP

NEUTRAL

ABRA	VALERA, VICENTE P	NPC
IFUGAO	CAPPLEMAN, BENJAMIN B	Independent
KALINGA	BELAC, DOMINADOR T	LDP
APAYAO	BULUT, ELIAS SR K	NPC-PMP
ISABELA	PADACA, Grace	Aksyon Demokratiko
NUEVA VIZCAYA	CUARESMA, LUISA L	LDP
BATANES	GATO, VICENTE D	LP
BULACAN	DELA CRUZ, JOSEFINA M	Lakas
BATAAN	GARCIA, ENRIQUE JR T	Lakas
AURORA	ANGARA-CASTILLO, BELLAFLOR	LDP
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	SATO, JOSEPHINE R	Lakas
ORIENTAL MINDORO	ARNAN, PANALIGAN C.	Lakas
ROMBLON	YLAGAN, PERPETUO	NPC
BUKIDNON	ZUBIRI, JOSE MA. R	Lakas
MISAMIS ORIENTAL	MORENO, OSCAR S	Lakas
DAVAO DEL SUR	BAUTISTA, BENJAMIN JR P	NPC
SOUTH COTABATO	FUENTES, DAISY A	NPC

47% of Filipinos don't like GMA–Pulse Asia

From page A1

er scenario is best for the country declined significantly.

Pulse Asia said the scenario of Ms Arroyo stepping aside or being impeached and the holding of snap elections was favored by a plurality across geographic areas and socio-economic classes—29 percent to 41 percent—with the exception of Visayas, where 37 percent favor Ms Arroyo completing her six-year term.

Asked what the "most beneficial or constructive political scenario" was, 17 percent (down from 28 percent) chose Ms Arroyo resigning or getting impeached and Vice President Noli de Castro assuming her post.

Sixteen percent (down from 22 percent) said it was Ms Arroyo finishing her term until 2010.

Covering "alternative political scenarios and best and worst persons to lead the country now," Pulse Asia conducted the face-to-face survey of 1,200 adults 18 years old and above on July 2-14. It had a plus or minus 3 percentage points margin of error at the 95 percent confidence level.

The survey was done at the height of political unrest sparked by revelations of illegal gambling payoffs implicating Ms Arroyo's family and disclosures of a wiretapped telephone conversation indicating she cheated in the May 2004 elections.

Weak support for Cha-cha

Pulse Asia said it appeared that the Charter change proposal by Ms Arroyo did not have much support from Filipinos. Only 10 percent (down from 16 percent in June) think it is best for the country if Ms Arroyo stays in power while the Charter is being amended to move into the parliamentary system that will replace the administration.

The poll was made before Ms Arroyo's proposal to amend the Constitution was announced in her State of the Nation Address on July 25.

Only 7 percent of Filipinos (down from 13 percent) think Ms Arroyo's removal through whatever means—constitutional or not—is best for the country.

Twenty-two percent of respondents believe the continuation of the Arroyo administration until 2010 is most inimical to the nation's interests.

Coup d'etat

In Metro Manila, the predominant sentiment—24 percent—fears as most destructive intervention by a foreign government in Philippine politics. In Mindanao, the same percentage opines that a coup d'etat or Ms Arroyo's resignation or impeachment and a snap election is most inimical to the country.

For 26 percent of Filipinos, De Castro is the best person to lead the Philippines—the same sentiment expressed by 30 percent of Filipinos in June. Sen. Panfilo Lacson is favored by 21 percent of respondents while former President Joseph Estrada is a distant third at 11 percent.

Only 7 percent of Filipinos consider Ms Arroyo as the best person to lead the country now.

Susan Roces

A marginally higher percentage of Filipinos (10 percent) favors Susan Roces, widow of Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Arroyo's closest rival in last year's elections, leading the country.

Evangelist Eddie Villanueva, with 28 percent, follows Ms Arroyo as an unacceptable leader now; former President Fidel Ramos at 25 percent; retired Maj. Gen. Fortunato Abat at 21 percent; Roces, Estrada and Lacson all at 20 percent; Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide 18 percent; Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and De Castro, both 12 percent.

President says sorry for media snafu

From page A1

away although it had been clearly announced that the President's first press conference in six weeks was open for media coverage.

Most Focap members were still bristling at Bunye's rudeness and were planning to boycott a press conference with the President planned for tomorrow afternoon, a source said.

Caveat

The group's newly elected board is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Ms Arroyo on Saturday at 2 p.m. and, the source said, Bunye had offered to make this meeting a press conference but with the caveat that only audio tape recorders would be allowed.

However, Malacañang's TV crew would film the meeting.

"Some members feel the board is being manipulated by the Palace press office to make up for the blunder (Wednesday). They have proposed to write Bunye to accept only the courtesy call for President which we had asked for anyway but decline the offer for a press conference in fairness to all foreign correspondents based in Manila . Our position should be one in, all in," the source said.

Focap president Karl Wilson, who protested Bunye's treatment of his members, did not answer his phone.

Boycott

The source said a number of board members were planning to boycott the courtesy call entirely in protest against Wednesday's rough treatment.

In her interview with GMA TV, the President also apologized to the Malacañang Press Corps.

"For those who did not ask, we had 25 minutes for the question and answer after my opening statement. There was really plenty of questions and it would take a whole day to answer them all," Ms Arroyo said.

Bunye stressed that due to time limitations, only 10 reporters were allowed to ask their questions. "I don't think we can accommodate all 32 reporters in 22 minutes who have signified their intention to ask their questions. It was physically impossible," said Bunye.

He denied there was a deliberate attempt to stage-manage the press conference.

No comment

Bunye, however, refused to comment further on the details of the press conference, such as how he selected the 10 questioners and why the rest of the Malacañang reporters were only advised of the new ground rules when they were seated at the ceremonial hall.

Bunye also refused to comment on charges that the briefing was stage-managed to show to the public that the President was ready to face any questions from media in the wake of her most serious political crisis.

Marichu Lambino, who teaches media ethics and law at the University of the Philippines, said Ms Arroyo could have avoided the clash with the press by refusing to comment on controversial issues confronting her that are under litigation.

"She could have been advised by her lawyers not to talk about it because the issue is under litigation, so she should have just given a 'no comment' answer. That is still an answer," said Lambino.

But by allowing Bunye to screen the question and stop reporters critical of the Palace from asking questions, then the Palace clearly engaged in censorship.

Censorship

"It's clearly a Malacañang production," she said of the controversial press conference, adding that what happened then was a "form of censorship."

"It violated the right of reporters to ask questions and denied peoples' right to know," she said.

Also yesterday, the left-leaning fisherfolk alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas urged members of the Malacañang press corps and Focap to boycott the next press conference of Ms Arroyo.

"The media should teach her a lesson. What she did yesterday was an open declaration of war against members of the press and a sinister attempt to curtail press freedom in its subtle, undeclared and de facto form," the alliance said in a statement. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.*

House pushing Con-ass despite Senate objections

From page A1

The chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments said yesterday the chamber would pass a resolution calling for a constituent assembly after two weeks of debates.

"Then it (the resolution) will go to the Senate," Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula said.

He said the House would push through next week with its plenary debates on two resolutions—one calling for Congress to convene into constituent assembly and the other on the rules governing it.

The House is fast tracking Charter change (Cha-cha) after President Macapagal-Arroyo announced in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 25 that she was in favor of Charter change through the constituent assembly to pave the way for a shift to a parliamentary and federal type of government.

Last night, the President indicated she intended to complete her term.

Fair and square

Asked whether she was prepared to cut short her term, she told GMA 7 network's "24 Oras" program that she won the presidential election last year fair and square.

She noted that the outcome of the vote counting had been observed by bishops and 100 foreign observers.

"I was elected and my term ends in 2010... This is my commitment," Ms Arroyo said in Filipino. The day before, she said it was up to Congress to cut her term.

Jaraula said he was confident the senators would approve the resolution, noting that a simple majority vote of "a quorum" in the Senate was required for its passage.

"What is needed is only an ordinary vote. The Constitution does not require a special vote on the issue of whether to convene as a constituent assembly," he said.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo does not agree with Jaraula's arithmetic.

To convert Congress into a constituent assembly, 18 senators, or three-fourths of the Senate, are needed to amend the Charter, the senator said.

While the administration-controlled House would vote overwhelmingly for a resolution calling for a constituent assembly, senators only needed six votes to defeat the resolution, Arroyo said. The current Senate has 23 members.

He said all 12 senators elected last year would oppose Cha-cha because it would mean not only truncating their six-year term but also abolishing their seats.

"Ergo, 12 plus 6 is 18. So instead of three-fourths of the Senate (18) voting for a constituent assembly, there will be three-fourths of the Senate voting against it," said the senator.

Jaraula explained that, under the Constitution, a three-fourths vote, or 18 senators, was required when approving specific amendments; a two-thirds vote, or 16 senators, in calling for a constitutional convention (Con-con); and "a majority vote of all the members" in the Senate in approving a plebiscite on whether there was a need for a Con-con.

But for the Senate to convene as a constituent assembly, only a majority vote of a quorum in the Senate was needed, he said.

Senator Arroyo said the President's call for Congress to start the "great debate on Charter change" was meant to amuse Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Humoring De Venecia

"He was humored by President Gloria and he jumped with glee," the senator said.

The senator, however, conceded that it was a "nice try" on the part of the President because an ecstatic De Venecia led Congress in giving three standing ovations and 33 rounds of applause to Ms Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 25.

After the Sona, De Venecia was praising Ms Arroyo to high heavens.

Hyperbole

Resorting to hyperbole in describing what the President had just announced, the Speaker said: "It's dramatic and historical. President Arroyo has become stronger, as well as the historic parliamentary movement."

Senator Arroyo said the President knew full well that her proposal would not take off considering the composition of the Senate.

He noted that except Senators Richard Gordon, Edgardo Angara and Juan Ponce Enrile, the rest of the 23-member Senate had opposed the proposal.

"They don't have the numbers. Where will they get the votes? It's really nothing but plain humor," Arroyo said, stressing that even Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., a staunch advocate of federalism, does not endorse Cha-cha at this time.

32 signatures against Cha-cha

Opposition lawmakers in the House also doubt whether the House could immediately pass the resolution calling on Congress to convene into a constituent assembly.

They have gathered 32 signatures for a resolution against Cha-cha. Among those who signed the resolution were administration coalition members like Pasig Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski and Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla.

"In such an atmosphere of political polarization, the proposal to amend the Constitution will surely be interpreted as a mere ploy to buy time for the President, distract Congress' attention from the impeachment process, and provide her with a 'graceful exit' from the current political crisis," the resolution said.

The resolution said that it was important to settle first the issue of the President's resignation or impeachment "in order for any Charter change proposal to be credible, meaningful and effective."

The President is facing the most serious political crisis in her 4-year administration amid calls that she step down because of allegations that she stole the presidential election last year. She and members of her family are also accused of benefiting from payoffs from operators of "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

Backlash

Cha-cha supporters warned senators about a popular backlash from the provinces in the 2007 elections if they continued opposing constitutional amendments.

"There will be a backlash. I fear there will be a backlash in [the] 2007 [elections] if there are national leaders who do not support a review of the Charter," said Bukidnon Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri.

Zubiri said he attended several meetings last week in Mindanao with several governors, mayors and vice mayors, who all expressed frustration at the opposition to Cha-cha from the senators.

Movement for federalism

Zubiri was speaking at the launching of the Movement for Federal Philippines, which included former University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva, who Ms Arroyo said would become a member of her consultative constitutional commission.

The movement, which is composed of congressmen, local government executives and academicians, will hold a nationwide campaign to inform the public about the need for a federal system of government, Zubiri said.

Saying that the country's political system was "poised to collapse," Zubiri said there was an urgent need for a federal-parliamentary system of government.

"We've tried a saintly housewife. We've tried former military general. We've tried an actor. Now, we're trying an economist but look at what is happening. Our country is not taking off because we need to change our rotten political system," Zubiri said.

Doomed to fail

"If you put the pope in charge, he's doomed to fail because the system will make him fail," he added.

Zubiri said that federalism would bring development to the countryside since local government units would be able to retain more of their taxes and would not have to beg the national government in Manila for their Internal Revenue Allotments.

"This is the answer to the urban migration to Metro Manila. Once federal states are developed, the flow of migration will go back to the provinces," he said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

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Police arrest suspect in Seachon killing

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AUTHORITIES have taken into custody a suspect in the June 26 ambush of former Masbate representative Fausto Seachon Jr. in Caloocan City

In a police progress report, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. identified the suspect as Christopher Mara Babon, who reportedly conducted the surveillance on Seachon before he was killed.

Razon is the Philippine National Police chief of the Directorial Staff.

In the same report dated July 27, 2005, and submitted to PNP Chief Arturo Lomibao, Babon reportedly identified two Masbate policemen who might have knowledge of the incident.

The two lawmen were identified as PO1 Dante Jose Yanzon of the Gataingan (Masbate) Police Station, and PO1 Juan Ferro Compuesto of the 507 PMG of the Masbate Provincial Police Office.

A check with the Records Management Section of the PNP in Camp Crame showed that a PO1 Dante Jose Yanson [note the "S" instead of the "Z"] and a PO1 Juan Ferro Compuesto were active members of the Police Provincial Office V in the Bicol Region.

However, the report did not state the participation, if any, of Yanzon and Compuesto in the killing of Seachon, who was gunned down in front of his neighbors in GSIS Hills, Barangay Talipapa.

Razon's report also stated: "The alleged mastermind is Gov. Antonio Kho of Masbate Province."

No evidence or proof of the allegation against Kho was given in the report, however.

In an interview, Caloocan City police director Supt. Leo Garra also said that there was no evidence that would link the Masbate governor to the killing of Seachon.

"We could not say at this time that the governor was involved," Garra said.

The INQUIRER Southern Luzon Bureau tried to contact Kho through his cellphone and through his provincial administrator's mobile phone but both lines were either unattended or out of coverage area.

A top National Police Commission official and a top police regional official said the governor would just call them up through a borrowed cellphone or would usually change numbers everytime he called.

Seachon, a congressman for three terms lost to Kho for the gubernatorial seat with a margin of 1,660 votes in the 2004 elections. He had wanted to run again for provincial governor in 2007.

Garra, at first, refused to comment on the progress of the investigation for feat that it might jeopardize the progess of the case, but when pressed further, confirmed that they had the names of the suspects. He however refused to give details.

Razon's report to Lomibao said that President Macapagal-Arroyo was personally monitoring the case. "PGMA called up Police Deputy Director General Avelino Razon to inquire on the status of the case," the official said.

Razon belied reports that Supt. Napoleon Cuaton, who was leading the investigation of the case, was being pressured to go easy on the suspects.

"We are vigorously pursuing the case and no one is pressuring us to go easy," Cuaton said when asked for comment.

Roldan moved to Pasig City Jail

ROLDAN

FORMER Quezon City congressman and actor Dennis Roldan was transferred to the Pasig City Jail yesterday morning after the Pasig City Regional Trial Court found probable cause in the kidnapping-for-ransom charge filed against him.

Roldan and six others are accused of kidnapping a 3-year-old boy and demanding P250 million for his release.

Finding probable cause against Roldan and committing him to the Pasig City Jail, Judge Agnes Carpio also set his arraignment for Aug. 2.

The PNP Custodial Service reported that Roldan was transferred from Camp Crame to the Pasig City Jail at about 8 a.m.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

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Binay warns Makati hotels' management

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BE ACCOUNTABLE.

A "mildly disappointed" Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday told the management of various hotels in the city to cooperate in police investigations or face police action.

In a statement, Binay said that he was "mildly disappointed" at the lack of cooperation being given to police investigators looking into a reported robbery at the Shangri-La Hotel and a reported theft case at Oakwood Premier apartments.

"While we understand the need to protect the reputation of these establishments, the city government and the police have a bigger responsibility to protect residents and guests from criminal elements," Binay said.

A duty to cooperate

He added, "I'm not requesting them to cooperate. I am saying it is their duty to cooperate with the authorities."

The mayor then warned that "if the attitude" continued on the part of hotel management in cases of criminal investigation, "the police would have no recourse but to take action" against uncooperative security and other hotel personnel.

Binay said he had ordered Makati police director Jovito Gutierrez to discuss with hotel security personnel better measures to ensure the protection of guests in the city's hotels, which attract foreigners, whether tourists or businessmen, who visit the country.

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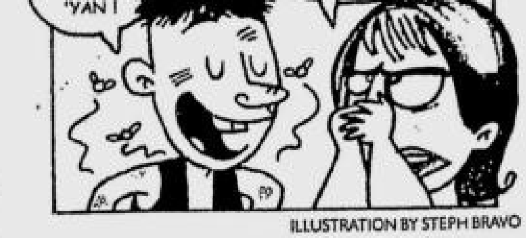
METROBRIEFS

Arroceros building a 'Go'

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have given the Manila City Hall the go-signal to proceed with the construction of a two-story teachers' building in the contested Arroceros Forest Park. However, Joy Belmonte, vice president of the Kapisanan ng mga Archaeologist ng Pilipinas Inc. (KAPI), said that a monitoring team from the National Museum would supervise excavation work in the park to make sure that no artifact would be destroyed in the construction process. If at any point workers come across material of significance, Belmonte said work would have to stop. Belmonte's team earlier found hundreds of items, mostly earthenware, porcelain shards and bricks, and iron objects such as old nails and Chinese coins from the site.

Tina G. Santos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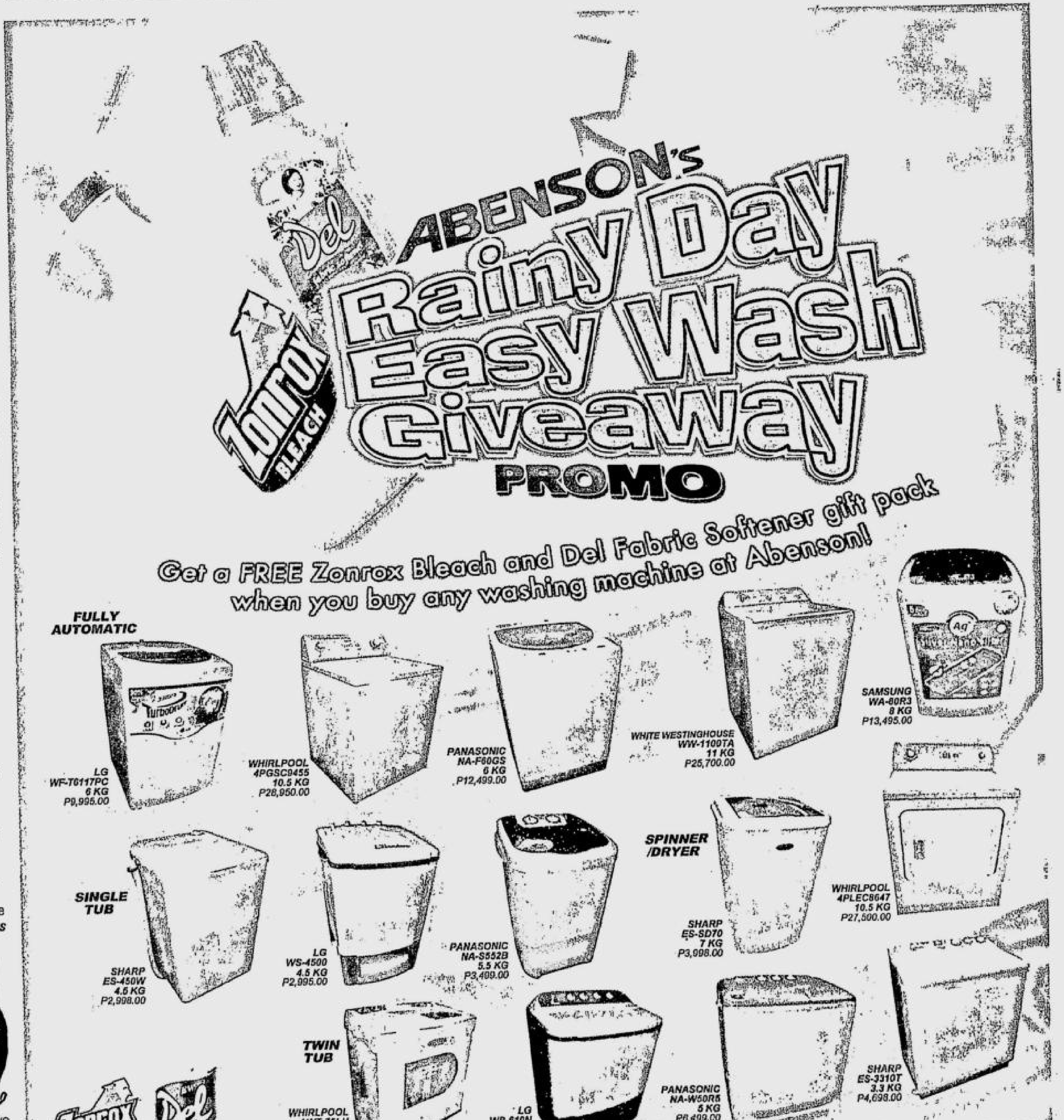
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Parañaque fetes 'late' adopted son

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A STREAMER was in place, the media ready with cameras and pens, and excited crowds filled city hall as early as 9:30 a.m. yesterday as Parañaque City readied to welcome its newly adopted son, super featherweight boxing champ Manny Pacquiao.

But it turned out to be a three-hour waiting game for the boxer's fans.

"Maybe he was caught in traffic," said one employee in Filipino, who took a break to get a glimpse of Pacquiao. Another joked that the boxer was probably coming all the way from General Santos City, his hometown, that's why it had taken him long.

A city council had passed a resolution this year that adopted the popular boxing figure as a son of the city. "His exemplary qualities and outstanding achievements in boxing and his well-known commitment to promote the sport among the youth would make Pacquiao a fine member of the citizenry," the resolution said.

Pacquiao showed up in black sunglasses, dark blue polo shirt and jeans, three hours later than the scheduled program, and apologized for his delay. He said his wife had forgotten to tell him about his appointment, adding that he had also finished shooting a movie at dawn yesterday.

Mayor Florencio Bernabe and city councilors welcomed Pacquiao at noon yesterday.

"I am very thankful that you have accepted me wholeheartedly in Parañaque City," Pacquiao said. "I hope for your continuous support so I could continue making Parañaque and our country proud," he said. Parañaque is the second city, after Manila, to adopt the boxing champion. Manila adopted Pacquiao in August 2003.

The boxer also owns property in the city and is currently building a house in Barangay BF.

BOXING champ Manny Pacquiao (in dark glasses) showed up at Parañaque after making his fans wait for three hours, but City Mayor Florencio Bernabe (right) gave him a hearty welcome just the same. RO REYES/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Criminals turned off by well-lit streets of Manila

By Margaux C. Ortiz

STREET lights could be the best deterrents against crime.

Crediting the city government's lighting program, Manila Police District (MPD) director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday announced that the crime rate in the city decreased by 16 percent during the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the same period of last year.

"Criminal activities usually take place in dark areas," Bulaong said in an interview, adding that lighting facilities in public areas like major thoroughfares, alleyways, and parks had been helpful in reducing crime incidents.

The police chief likewise stressed that the MPD's recent projects and strategies also played a big role in the fight against criminality.

Based on quarterly statistics, a total of 282 crime cases was recorded from May to July 2005, as compared to 334 incidents in the same period last year.

The police chief said crimes against property significantly dropped from 126 robbery and 96 theft cases in 2004 to 97 robbery and 94 theft incidents this year. Bulaong added that crimes against persons also decreased from 42 to 40 murder cases, and from 21 to 19 homicide incidents, based on their crime statistics.

Cainta garbage site closed

By Blanche S. Rivera

CAINTA town could raise a stink in the coming days after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) closed its garbage transfer station yesterday.

The DENR issued a cease-and-desist order against the local government's warehouse in Barangay Sto. Domingo which accommodates around 70 tons of garbage from the municipality everyday.

Assistant Secretary Casimiro Ynares III, head of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, said the transfer station was operating without an environment compliance certificate and a notice to proceed.

"They asked for more time until they could find a new transfer station, but what could we do? We have to implement the law. We can provide technical assistance, but their problem is where to find a new place," Ynares said.

Ynares and Cainta Mayor Mon Ilagan inspected the site at the CIG compound on Ortigas Avenue Extension after residents of nearby barangays had complained about the foul smell from the site.

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JONES CUP

Filipino cagers slip past pesky Japanese

By Musong R. Castillo

TAIPEI—A close shave.

The RP-San Miguel squad again found difficulty in handling a quick and young Japan team on Thursday, needing the heroics of PBL ace Dennis Miranda in the waning seconds to get back in the thick of the 27th Jones Cup basketball fight.

Miranda completed a three-point play with 18.7 ticks left that led to a 76-72 victory over the Japanese and kept RP-SMB on track of winning this tournament for the first time since 1988 at the Taipei Physical Education College gym here.

The Philippines opened up slow for the second straight game and almost finished with a whimper, scoring just eight points in the first 9 minutes and 41 seconds of the last quarter before being bailed out by Miranda, who plays for FEU-Magnolia in the PBL.

It was the fifth win in six outings for RP-San Miguel, which was upset by AIS-Australia Wednesday and nearly fell prey to a winless side for the second straight day.

Japan, which fielded its developmental Under-23 team here, is now 0-6.

The three toughest teams are what's left in the Philippine schedule with Russia (6-1), up next at 6 p.m. today followed by defending champion Chinese-Taipei tomorrow at 8 p.m.

The Filipinos, who last won here through the PBA Centennial team coached by Tim Cone , slug it out with pre-tournament favorite United States-Passing Lane in what could be the championship game at 6 o' clock on Sunday.

The 6-foot-1 Miranda, who only got a call to suit up here after Willie Miller suffered a severe ankle sprain on opening day, hit a looping layup off the glass while drawing a foul from Kazu Nakagawa, the bonus charity giving RP a 74-72 lead.

That basket was the first for the Philippines since the 4:28 mark when Miranda himself nailed a left-handed layup that gave the Filipinos a seemingly comfortable 71-62 bubble.

"It was a play I really designed for him (Miranda)," said coach Chot Reyes afterwards. 'Jay-Jay (Helterbrand) was simply too tired and I wanted someone from the outside to come in and attack the basket."

For most of the second half, the Philippines took command, leading by as many as 14 points, the last at 63-49 with 41.8 left in the third after a Kenny Williams follow-up slam of a Kerby Raymundo miss.

A 6-0 spurt by the Japanese put them close before baskets by Raymundo and Miranda sandwiched four straight Asi Taulava points for that nine-point cushion.

Sato Takuya got away with a traveling violation, touching off a 10-0 run with 4:10 to go and capping it with a short stab off Raymundo and Rommel Adducul for 72-71 with 31.1 left.

Guards Nakagawa, a mainstay of the Passing Lane squad also seeing action here, and Takuro Ito both drilled in triples in that spurt.

"It was another tough day for us," said Reyes. "Some of the players are really showing signs of fatigue out there after coming straight from Las Vegas."

The Philippines, fresh from playing in the Global Hoops Summit in Las Vegas, trailed 0-5 after missing its first four shots and turning the ball over two times in the first two minutes.

Raymundo scored the first basket for RP with 7:48 left and it was not only after a 6-0 run to end the period, which was highlighted by a 180-degree dunk by Williams, did the Philippines gain the upper hand.

Taulava led the Philippines with 15 points with Anthony dela Cruz chipping in 14. Miranda and Helterbrand finished in double digits and combined for another 23.

Miranda also shared team rebounds honors with Taulava and Williams with seven each.

The scores:

RP-SAN MIGUEL 76—Taulava 15, Dela Cruz 14, Miranda 13, Helterbrand 10, Adducul 7, Raymundo 7, Hontiveros 6, Williams 4, De Ocampo 0.

JAPAN 72—Kagami 13, Takuro 11, Takuya 10, Takano 9, Reina 8, Nakagawa 5, Takaki 4, Takanori 2, Sugatani 0.

Quarters: 18-16, 38-35, 63-51, 76-72.

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Losing part of RP five's learning process—Reyes

TAIPEI, Taiwan—As far as Chot Reyes is concerned, everything that has happened to his Philippine team is part of a long learning process.

REYES

Especially the losing.

"It's okay to lose as long as we gain something out of it," Reyes said Thursday after going 1-1 in the last two days of the 27th Jones Cup basketball championship at the Taipei Physical Education College gym here.

"It's no secret that we want to win this tournament, but the lessons we learn for the long term are what's important," Reyes added. "You can say that we lost that game (Wednesday) totally if we also lose the lessons on why we lost."

The Philippines, a team made up mostly of crack millionaire pros from the Philippine Basketball Association, ran into energetic, young teams in the last 48 hours, losing to Australia on Wednesday before being pushed to the limit by Japan.

The Aussies were bannered by teeners who polished their game at the Australian Institute of Sports. Japan was represented by its Under-23 squad.

"I always blame myself whenever we lose, because it shows that I did not prepare the players well," explained the firebrand taskmaster. "I am angry at myself and I take full responsibility."

Reyes learned valuable lessons in his last two games.

He learned the value of a healthy and potent point guard rotation, the value of preparation even if a team is on a roll and the value of the three-point shot in an international tournament such as this one.

RP-San Miguel lost to Australia on Wednesday because Willie Miller and Brandon Cablay were out and Jay-Jay Helterbrand was simply too tired, with his backup, Dennis Miranda, coming straight to the game from the airport.

Reyes also called off the morning shootaround because he felt that his players were too tired, making the Filipinos start out flat and tight against the tall Aussies.

Against the Japanese on Thursday, the Philippines almost lost for the second straight time after Japan hit three triples in the fourth, the last two coming in a 34-second span that made a game out of it heading into the final 68 seconds.

The Philippines went for a combined 4-of-15 from beyond the arc in those two games.

"We will learn even more as we go on," Reyes said. "Like I said, I don't mind losing as long as we learn.

"Winning means we've learned most of what we need to know." *Musong R. Castillo*

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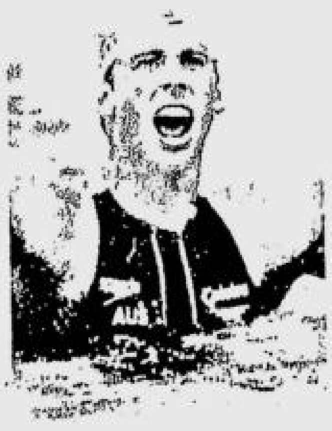
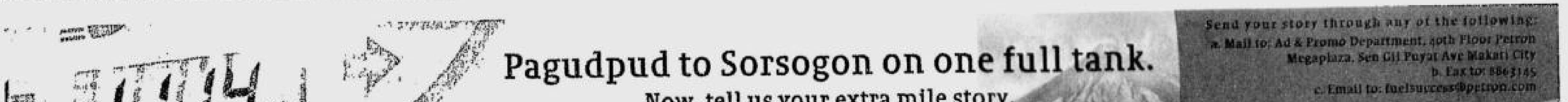
WHAT'S INSIDE

Streaking Tams, Archers rip foes /A26

Hackett finally owns the spotlight/A28

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Streaking Tams, Archers rip foes

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2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs Adamson (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR Eastern University Tamaraws continue to roll over opponents, this time crushing the obviously overmatched National U Bulldogs, 83-68, to keep the solo lead in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tamaraws opened the game with a 16-3 run and never gave the hapless Bulldogs a chance as they cruised to their fifth straight triumph.

Senior swingman RJ Rizada set the tone for the blowout win, firing 11 of his 19 points in the first half while Jeff Chan added 12 markers on top of eight assists to help the Tamaraws bury the Bulldogs deeper in the second half.

Coach Bert Flores couldn't ask for a better start for his Tamaraws, who have impressively won all their games in double-digit margins.

"We still have two more games (before sweeping the first round), but both will be tough," said Flores.

The remaining games for the Tams are against La Salle and the University of the Philippines.

The Archers showed just how dangerous a foe they can be, capping a day of routs by ripping University of Santo Tomas, 98-78, for a 3-2 record.

Coach Franz Pumaren commended the Archers' performance after posting their first back-to-back victories.

"This is the first time we started pretty well," said Pumaren. "I've always been stressing that we should start out strong."

The Bulldogs and the Tigers skidded to their fifth straight losses.

Rizada and Chan helped the Tamaraws stretched their advantage to 29 points, 66-37.

The Archers, on the other hand, easily built a 20-point cushion, 33-13, in the first quarter. La Salle's 33 points in the first period tied Adamson's biggest output for a quarter this season.

The Baby Tamaraws also took top spot in the juniors division after creaming the Bullpups, 89-48. The La Salle Bengals shared the lead at 4-1 by routing the Tiger Cubs, 70-54.

The senior scores:

First Game

FEU 83—Rizada 19, Chan 12, Flores 8, Santos 7, Mangahas 7, Dela Cruz 6, Barcellano 4, Adolfo 4, Jo. Villanueva 2, Je. Villanueva 2, Nietes 2, Fernandez 1.

NU 68—D. Catamora 12, Asoro 10, Lingao-Lingao 8, Fernandez 8, Dela Cruz 6, Sanchez 5, Salvado 4, Estolano 4, Jahnke 3, Tungkol 2, Malcontento 2, Flor 2, C. Catamora 2.

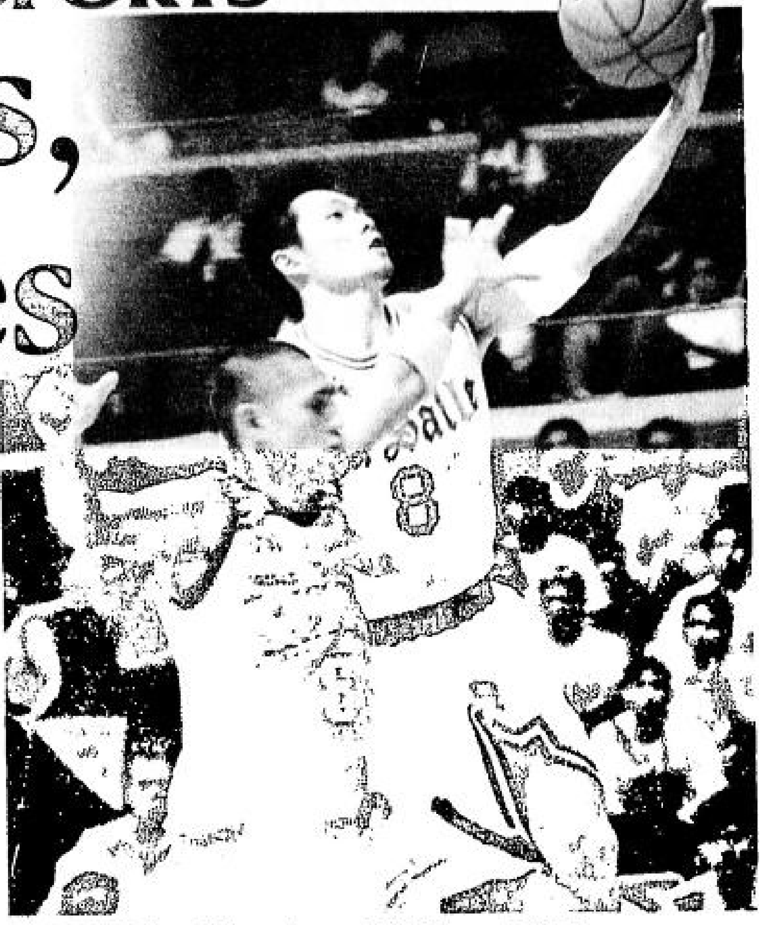
Quarters: 22-10, 43-30, 70-46, 83-68

Second Game

LA SALLE 98—Yeo 18, Araña 13, Casio 11, Tang 10, Cabatu 9, Villanueva 8, Co 8, Aquino 6, Rivera 4, Cua 3, Barua 3, Maierhoffer 2, Benitez 2, Mangahas 1.

UST 78—Duncil 20, Evangelista 12, Ababou 11, Dizon 7, Pribhdas 6, Allera 6, De Guzman 5, Cuan 3, Cortez 3, Taylor 2, Crisosotomo 2, Espiritu 1.

Quarters: 33-14, 52-33, 78-49, 98-78



LA SALLE'S Joseph Yeo sails past UST's Danny Pribhdas. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Niida to tap Mexicans for Gejon fight

WORLD Boxing Association minimumweight champion Yutaka Niida of Japan is pulling out all stops as he prepares for his Sept. 25 title defense against unbeaten Filipino challenger Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon at the Yokohama Arena near Tokyo.

Sources from Japan said Niida will be bringing in to Tokyo against tall Mexican sparmates to hone his skills against Gejon, considered a "well-kept secret" of Cebu promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud.

"My opponent (Gejon) is tall but he looks like he can't take a hard punch. He's my favorite type of opponent," said Niida in a Philboxing.com story yesterday as quoted by Japan Today.

At 5-foot-6, Gejon is considered uncommonly tall for the 105-lb division. He goes into the biggest fight of his career with 21 wins and a draw. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Top prospect in Gorres-Thai tiff

A YOUNG prospect from Cebu will take on a Manila fighter this Saturday underneath the Z Gorres-Deeden Kengkarun card at the air-conditioned and refurbished San Andres Civic and Sports Center.

Rey Caitom is dubbed "the future of Philippine boxing" by Cebu boxing patron Tony Aldeguer, who is credited for turning Gerry Peñalosa, Malcolm Tuñacao, and Joma Gamboa into world champions.

Caitom, a many time national amateur gold medalist and member of the elite ALA Boys, will be showcasing his skills only for the second time as a pro when he tangles with talented Elorde protege Janrey Canete in a four-round bout.

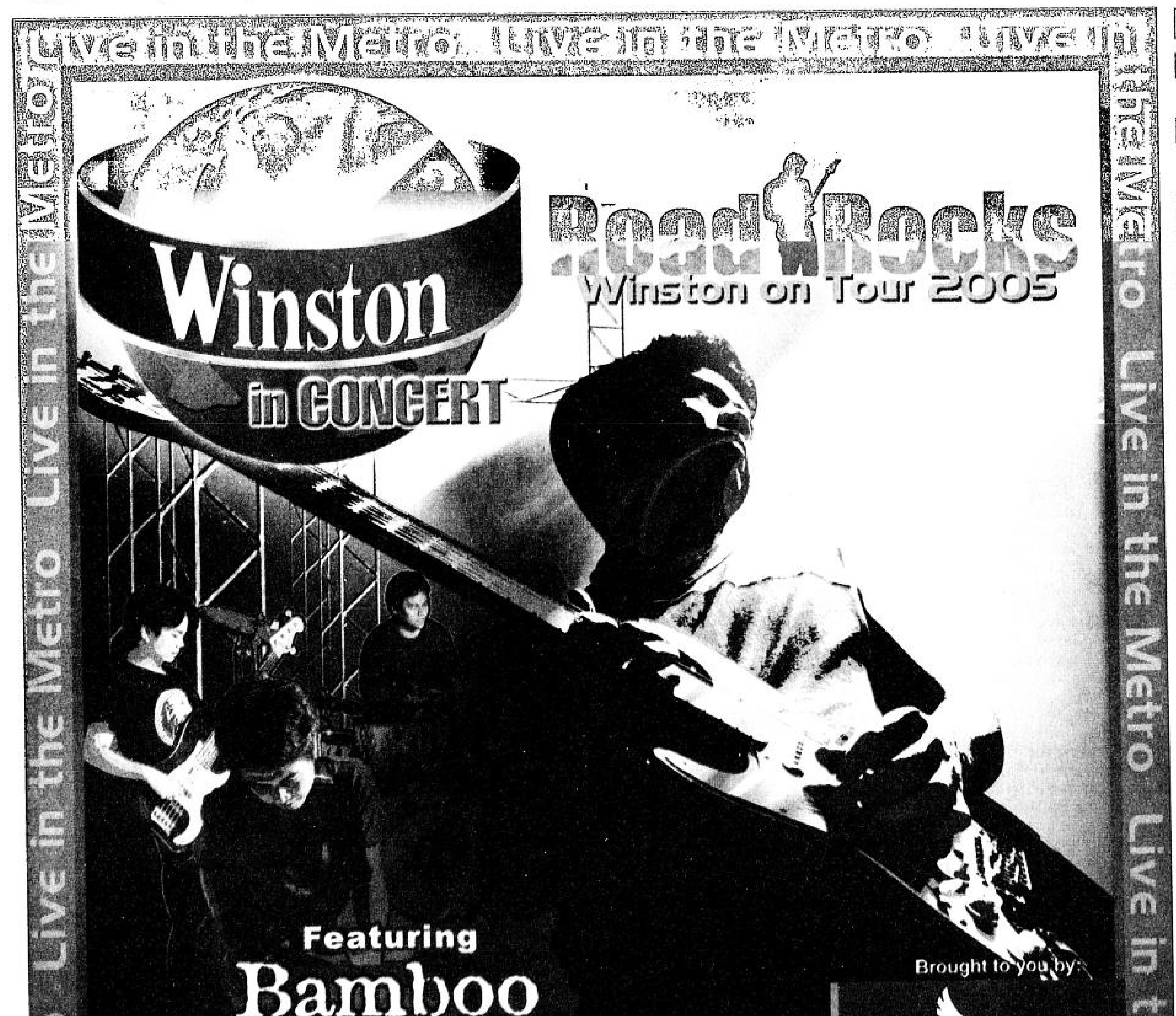
In his pro debut on June 11, Caitom scored a unanimous decision victory over fellow amateur gold medalist Reymund Legaspi.

Meanwhile, Gorres and Kengkarun paid a courtesy call yesterday on Viva Entertainment Group Inc. president Vic del Rosario who is promoting the fight card sponsored by Tanduay.

The official weigh-in is set at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

The card also features the Philippine bantamweight championship fight between Joel Bauya and Michael Domingo.

Other fights pit Donnie Nietes versus Nino Suelo; Edmund Velayo against Rey Orais; Isidro Lorona versus Lito Sisnorio; and Rodel Quilaton against Gerard Ubatay. Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor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SPORTSWATCH

Equestrian in SCOOP

THE SPORTS Communicators Organization of the Philippines focuses on the Filipino athletes' preparations for the coming Southeast Asian Games in today's edition of the SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant-Padre Faura in Malate. Invited in the session sponsored by Accel are members of the national equestrian and triathlon teams who will be discussing with SCOOP members their medal chances in the 23rd staging of the biennial meet Nov. 27 to Dec. 5. Veteran internationalist Toni Leviste and equestrian teammates Jones Lanza and Joker Arroyo, coach Mitos Belofsky and equestrian federation treasurer Carissa Coscolluela head today's guests that also include triathlon association president Tom Carrasco, national coach Abet Alon Alon and some triathletes.

Adamson, UP triumph

ADAMSON kept its slate clean in women's UAAP volleyball, coasting to a 25-16, 25-14, 25-21 triumph over National U yesterday. It was the Lady Falcons third win in as many games. Reigning champion La Salle struggled past FEU, 25-11, 25-16, 20-25, 25-12, for a 2-1 card. UST clinched its first win in UAAP volleyball action with a 25-19, 23-25, 25-23, 25-22 win over UE. In the men's side, UP kept the lead with its third straight win, a 25-20, 25-19, 25-14 beating of La Salle.

Dipolog hosts jr tennis

ZAMBOANGA del Norte takes centerstage when Dipolog Country Club hosts for the first time the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop in Dipolog City starting today. Dipolog tennis patron and Mayor Boy Lopez welcomed the event as an integral part of the City's sports development program for the youth of Zamboanga del Norte. Featured events in the meet organized by Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by adidas with Philta sanction are the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under and the unisex 10-under divisions.

PCC 4-cock derby today

ANOTHER big-time cockfighting event sizzles at Pasay City Cockpit today, via the special 4-cock derby which will feature more than 60 fights with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Last week, the 19th PCC Anniversary 5-Cock Derby (162 entries) was won by Tony Tan (Boys 2) and Boy de Guzman (Coffe King II) who posted five wins each. Tan and De Guzman split the champion's prize of P1 million. At stake in the event being hosted by Balrito Ace Group is P300,000 with an entry fee of P7,700. For details, call 843–1746, 816–6750 and 843– 1890. Meanwhile, the Barkadahan 3-cock derby unfolds on Aug. 5, as well as the 3- cock derby of Cito Manansala and Gerry Maningas on Aug. 12. Both events have an entry fee of P5,500.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1 Kiss Me Quick 2. Solo Singer 3. Blue Iris 4. Ocean Dignity
Race 2—1. Like Kevin 2. Jellbeanjoy 3. Patutina 4. Shy Girl
Race 3—1. Erica's Talent 2. Deep Pockets 3. Red Storm 4. Clear Stone
Race 4—1. King Size 2. Western Dancer 3. Juara 4. First of All
Race 5—1. Scud Missile 2. Angie Gray 3. Batangas Force 4. Cat's Jewel
Race 6—1. Thywillbedone 2. Toril 3. Sir Brendan Jean 4. Native Land
Race 7—1. Moab 2. Paramount 3. Flying Jordan 4. Cycles
Race 8—1. Morning Nell 2. Reign of Roses 3. Caballero 4. Scene Stealer
Race 9—1. Joint Account 2. Nitty Gritty 3. Ocean Cookie 4. Raven 5. La Signorina 6. Prince Valiant

It's Fighting Arroyo by another KO

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

NELLY Sindayen, Time's Manila correspondent, had never been knocked out in all her years as a committed journalist.

On Wednesday, she suffered her first stoppage, even before she could enter the ring.

Sindayen ventured into Malacañang to attend President Macapagal-Arroyo's press conference, the chief executive's first since being engulfed in a poll fraud mess brought about by the "Hello Garci" tapes.

Sindayen, seasoned and quite fit for the mission, was stopped cold in her tracks.

The shutout was so unexpected, Sindayen would not know what hit her.

The opponent had to resort to dirty tactics.

* * *

Sindayen, together with a band of foreign media men, was barred from attending Wednesday's press conference in Malacañang.

They were turned away at the door.

Even former senator Kit Tatad, who as press secretary read to the nation the provisions of Martial Law in September 1972, swore there was nothing as foul, assailable even during the height of the Marcos dictatorship.

The grand event at the Palace was meant to spark Ms Arroyo's image makeover through a media blitz.

It had to go smooth, unhampered. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye stood to the task by disallowing journalists, photographers and television crews belonging to foreign news agencies from the conference.

With no risky question digging into alleged anomalies involving her office and her family, Ms Arroyo took it away.

* * *

Were it a boxing bout, it would be one-sided, a mismatch.

Only 10 questions from selected reporters were allowed.

Representatives of major media facilities, including GMA 7, ABS-CBN, ABC 5 television stations and the INQUIRER, were left out.

But even before the final bell could be sounded, there were cries of a fix, *lutong makaw*.

"Many of the questions there were of no use to us. They were not the questions we wanted to pursue," protested ABS-CBN's Lynda Jumilla, former INQUIRER star reporter.

It's a pity because GMA was at her radiant best, her face a rose freshened by the rain of applause and ovations in her State of the Nation address a couple of days back.

It was a proud face the world should've seen, but the hurrying Ms Arroyo, who had no time for foreign media, did loiter around and posed for pictures with members of the Malacañang Press Corps, before disappearing in style.

* * *

Do remember that, in her last Sona, Gloria was in excelsis, basking in the noisy adulation of backers, led by Speaker Jose de Venecia, who packed Congress and made it appear she's the world's best loved leader.

It would be hard to determine what members of the captive and cooperative Malacañang Press Corps would get for allowing themselves to be part of the farce.

But here's something for the ever-suffering Pinoy: There was a solid information, provided by a boxing promoter with connections in Cebu and Mindanao, that overjoyed mayors and other officials from the south who attended the Sona were provided plane tickets, board and lodging, together with hefty shopping money to attend the Sona on Monday.

* * *

That's no longer surprising, considering the track record of the current regime.

It was not unlike in the political conventions of old, during the era of Diosdado Macapagal, the poor boy from Lubao, who was no stranger to controversial figures like Stonehill and Bocalan and who himself ended up in Forbes Park.

Look, if the Speaker of the House had shown his Olympian capability at bootlicking during the Sona, Secretary Bunye did demonstrate his hidden talent at promoting a *lutong makaw*.

We may never know if selected reporters, lovey-dovey with Ms Arroyo, were themselves wined and dined like the mayors and assorted pimps that graced the Sona at people's expense.

At least, President Macapagal-Arroyo did not bother to bring in Manny Pacquiao, himself a Palace captive and a grand presence in Congress last Monday, to provide the necessary knockout punch in the Malacañang press con.

President Macapagal-Arroyo did a Pacman. She played it solo, dumped foreign media and knocked out truth in another mismatch.

Spring Oil spoils debut of Bacchus

BIG MAN Val Domingo delivered the big shots as Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna spoiled the debut of Bacchus/Harbour Centre's Manila squad with a decisive 93-83 victory Wednesday night in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Lyceum in Intramuros.

Domingo, who outplayed veteran Allan Gamboa and PBL's No. 1 draft pick Kenneth Co Yu Kang inside the paint, completed a three-point play early in the final period to spark the breakaway of the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro.

The 6-foot-7 Domingo scattered 21 points in his finest performance so far in the tourney.

Over at the Valencia City gym in Bukidnon, Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Golden Harvest leaned on Julius Navales to nip KSK Food Products-backed Parañaque Jets, 81-76.

The Jets of Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana inched ahead, 76-75, in the final 45.6 seconds. Navales, however, scored on a putback and then sank two free throws to make it 79-76 with 39 ticks left.

Spring posted its fifth win in eight games in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Spring gained second in the Northern Conference, behind Forward Taguig (6-0) but ahead of Cavite (6-5), Parañaque (3-6), Baguio (1-5) and Manila (0-1).

The CdO Stars of former Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin eye their third win when they host Manila at 6 p.m. today at the Xavier University gym in Cagayan de Oro.

The scores:

LAGUNA 93—Domingo 21, Latoreno 14, Nuqui 11, Mendoza 8, Villamin 8, Kalaw 7, Proceso 6, Manuel 6, Manucat 4, Caceres 2, Reyes 2, Corbin 1.

MANILA 83—Epondulan 21, Enrile 16, Hardin 15, Gamboa 12, Sta. Cruz 8, Cordero 4, Coyukang 3, Rauschmayer 2, Hudencial 2, Plle 0, Reroma 0.

Quarters: 26-20, 49-40, 69-62, 93-83.

VALENCIA 81—Navales 20, Cabili 16, Gragasin 13, Berami 10, Nailon 6, Toring 5, Celiz 4, Adams 3, Cesar 2, Taligatos 2, Cruz 0, Bayron 0, Clavel 0.

PARAÑAQUE 76—Bognot 18, Marquez 17, Rodriguez 14, Yambao 7, Saquilayan 7, Gulyab 6, Basilides 4, Lopez 3, Tolentino 0, Ollano 0, Ruiz 0.

Quarters: 26-19, 46-38, 61-58, 81-76

Enduro Adventures conquers Cebu

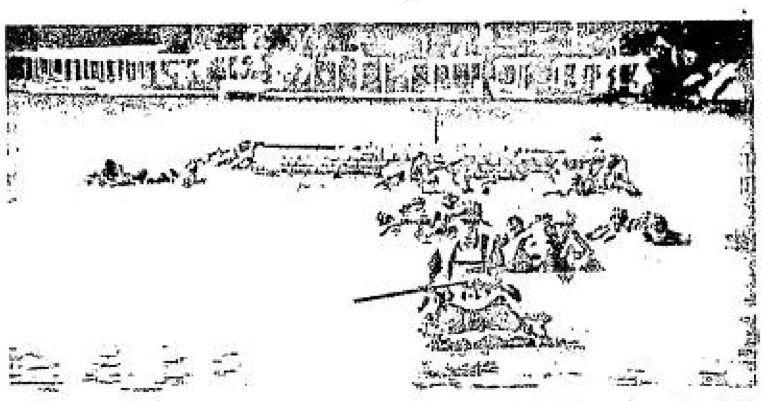
AFTER the lung-busting race in Baguio, the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures 2005 shifts to Cebu, where tasks never-before staged in three years of the competition await the participants on Aug. 6.

"The Cebu race is going to be a blast," race director Neyney Guevarra said. "This race will definitely test their limits."

All teams will start en masse at a designated point at SM City Cebu, go through all stations in a combination of sequential and nonsequential station-to-station system, and arrive at the finish line before the cut-off time.

Call the Enduro hotline at 414-1489 or visit www.sanmiglight.com.ph for race details.

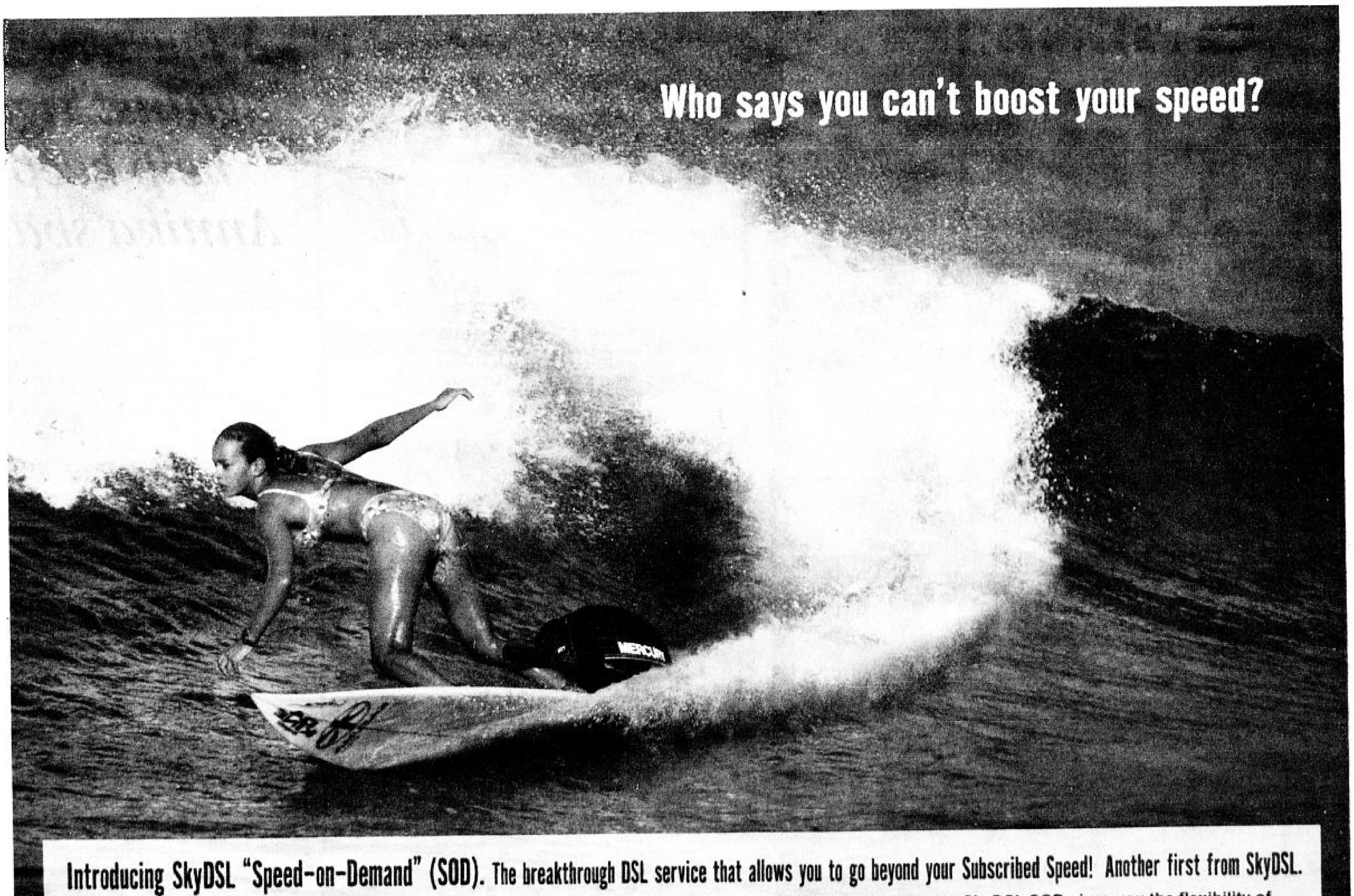
More than P50,000 will be up for grabs in this second leg of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures 2005.



PARTICIPANTS try their hand in rafting at Baguio's Burnham Park in the first leg of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures. The second leg is set on Aug. 6 in Cebu City.

Inspired by some hit reality TV shows like Survivor and the Amazing Race, the event has set various tasks for the three legs, the last of which is slated in Manila on Sept. 14.

Team Pine Praxi 13, the first leg champion in the elite category, is composed of Baguio homegrown talents Raymunod de Jesus, Edison Morales and Marychiel Minas.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09:30LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END
3 STEALTH
11:10FS/11:15MF/01:45/04:20/06:55
09:05LFS/09:10LFS/11:40END

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2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 THE ISLAND
5 STEALTH
6 IF ONLY
7 WEDDING CRASHER
8 NEW POLICE STORY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 THE MACHINIST
12 CINEMA ONE ORIGINALS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 IF ONLY
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
4 STEALTH
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 D'ANOTHERS
7 THE ISLAND
8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 EVIL DEAD
11 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12 WEDDING CRASHERS

SM NORTH EDSA
1 STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 MAN OF THE HOUSE
5 D'ANOTHERS
6 THE MACHINIST
7 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY STA MESA
1 STEALTH
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 D'ANOTHERS
6 ICE PRINCESS
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 IF ONLY
9 NEW POLICE STORY
10 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 EVIL DEAD
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
8 IF ONLY
9 THE ISLAND
10 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MACHINIST
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3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 THE ISLAND

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1 STEALTH
2 EVIL DEAD
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SM CITY BACOOR
1 EVIL DEAD
2 IF ONLY
3 STEALTH
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 THE ISLAND
6 D'ANOTHERS
7 NEW POLICE STORY
8 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE ISLAND
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 EVIL DEAD
4 STEALTH

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 THE ISLAND
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 HOUSE OF WAX

SM CITY MARILAO
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE ISLAND

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 THE ISLAND
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUE
4 NEW POLICE STORY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 THE ISLAND
3 STEALTH
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 CREEP
6 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY ILOILO
1 MEW POLICE STORY
2 RESERVED
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 D'ANOTHERS
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
7 RESERVED
8 HOTEL RWANDA

SM CITY DAVAO
1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 D'ANOTHERS
4 CREEP
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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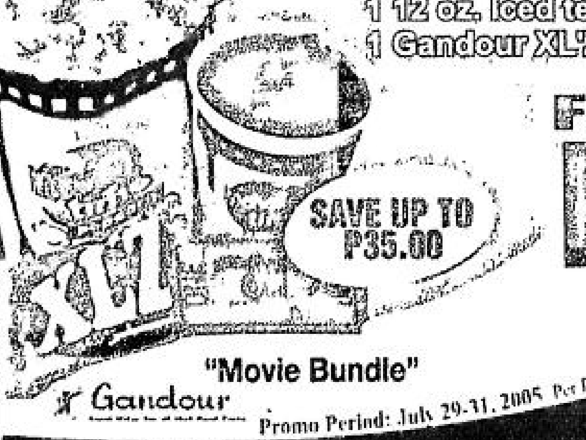

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Hackett finally own

Aussie swimmin

MONTREAL—Grant Hackett is used to swimming in the shadow of others. First, Kieren Perkins. Then, Ian Thorpe. Now, Michael Phelps.

It's time to give the big Aussie his due.

Hackett bumped off one of the sport's most enduring world records Wednesday night, leaving everyone else in his wake on his way to eclipsing Thorpe's mark in the 800-meter freestyle.

Even Phelps was impressed.

"Congratulations," Phelps told Hackett when the two ran into each other in the massage area. "That was great to watch."

Indeed, it was. The 6-foot-6 Hackett claimed his second gold and third medal of the World Swimming Championships with a time of 7 minutes, 38.65 seconds, breaking the mark set four years ago by his countryman Thorpe.

Hackett was more than five seconds under Thorpe's pace at 600 meters, but it got tight at the end.

When Hackett touched the wall, his head popped out the water and he turned to look at the scoreboard. "Yeah!" he screamed upon seeing the time—51-hundredths of a second under Thorpe's recor

Appropriately, I
right index finger.
No. 1.

"That was a fa
Ian is one of the g
all time," Hackett
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When Hackett
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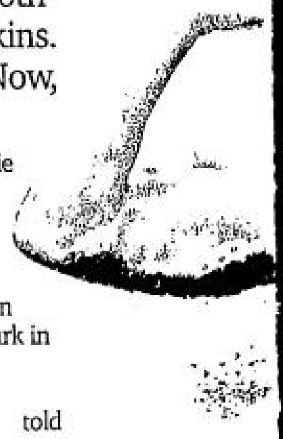

HACKETT once a
busting, long-dist

Brown, NY K

NEW YORK—The New York Knicks have reached an agreement to hire Larry Brown as coach, negotiating the final details with his agent Wednesday and clearing the way for the Knicks to introduce him at Madison Square Garden, his agent said.

The team called a news conference for noon, where Brown will be introduced as the 22n
history.

The deal comes
ter Brown left the

"We have it jus
are a couple of thi
Joe Glass said
evening.

Within an hou

A few wagers against Tiger help keep Annika sharp

SOUTHPORT, England—For Annika Sorenstam, it's not enough to practice with Tiger Woods. There has to be a little cash involved, too.

The two superstars of the game bet against each other and, right now, Woods has the edge.

"We always have to have something riding on it," Sorenstam said Wednesday on the eve of the Women's British Open at Royal Birkdale.

"I think the bets, that's what keeps him motivated to beat me. For me, I think it's actually more the pride than anything. I always tell him: 'If I beat you I can say it.'"

"He always makes sure it doesn't happen," she said. "We pay up front. I would say his account is more full."

Though they play on different tours, often in different countries, Sorenstam and Woods practice together when they can, working on different shots, primarily the lob.

"He just has a really good feel for how to hit it very high and land it very softly. I'm working on that shot," the Swede said.

"This guy has so much imagination, which is really good for me because a lot of times I practice the same shots. But with him, he will always try to figure out my weakness, so that works out great for me."

Sorenstam said their rivalry is part of their friendship.

She messaged Woods when she won her ninth major this year to match his total. He replied when he won his 10th—the British Open at St. Andrews two weeks ago.

She is already plotting a possible response "if things are going well on Sunday." If she wins, it would be her 10th major victory, matching Woods, and it would make her just the fourth women in LPGA history to win three majors in one year.

AP

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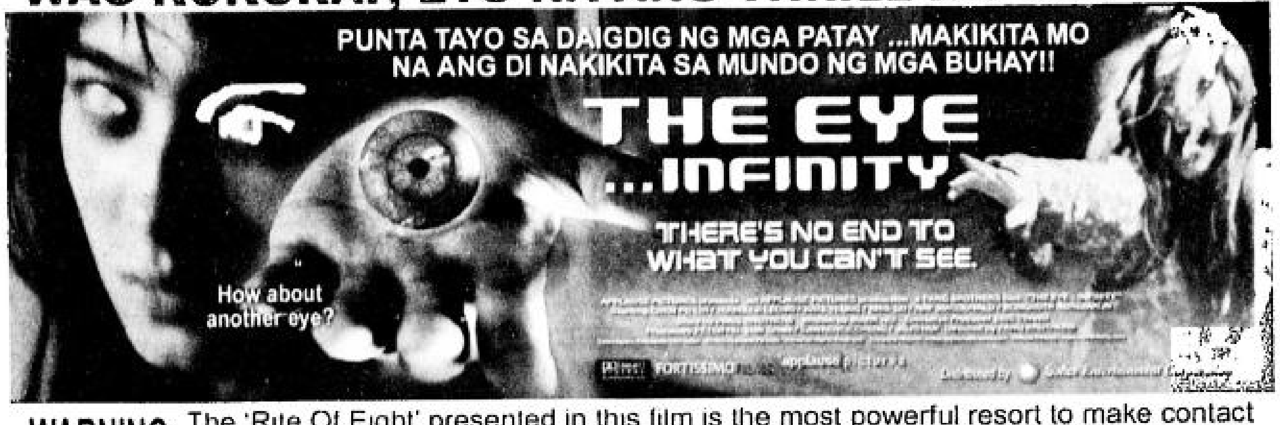
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s the spotlight

g star shatters world record

gain proves he is the mightiest when it comes to lung-
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REUTERS

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lackett held aloft his

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was coming along,
on of Australian dis-
s Perkins faded away,
the sport's dominant

figure. Then it was Phelps, taking on the role with his six-gold, eight-medal performance at the Athens Olympics.

Through it all, Hackett keeps plugging along. He has world records in both the 800—a non-Olympic event—and 1,500 freestyle. He's the most prolific medal winner in meet history.

"I feel I've done enough to prove myself," said Hackett, savoring his 15th world championship medal—two more than anyone else. "It's more personally satisfying than anything else."

Phelps had his busiest day of the championships, swimming four times to qualify for the finals of the 100 free and 200 individual medley.

The 20-year-old American is on pace to win seven medals, but Hackett isn't done, either. The 1,500 is his signature event and he'll anchor the Aussies in the 800 free relay, expected to be a spirited battle with Phelps and his US teammates.

Phelps dropped the 400 IM and 200 butterfly for this meet, even though he was the world record holder, defending Olympic champion and virtually assured of victories in both. He substituted the 100 and 400 free, looking to stay motivated and give himself a few more options before the Beijing Games.

On a damp, rainy night at Parc Jean-Drapeau, Pawel Korzeniowski of Poland took advantage of Phelps' absence in the 200 fly to win the gold. His time of 1:55.02 was more than a second off the American's world record.

Thirty-five-year-old Mark Warneke of Germany became the oldest swimmer to win a world championship, winning the 50 breaststroke in 27.63, holding off American Mark Gangloff and Japanese Olympic champion Kosuke Kitajima.

Solenne Figues of France captured gold in the women's 200 freestyle, winning in 1:58.60. *AP*

nicks finalize contract

l coach in the club's

less than 10 days af-
etroit Pistons.
about done. There
gs to tidy up," agent
early Wednesday

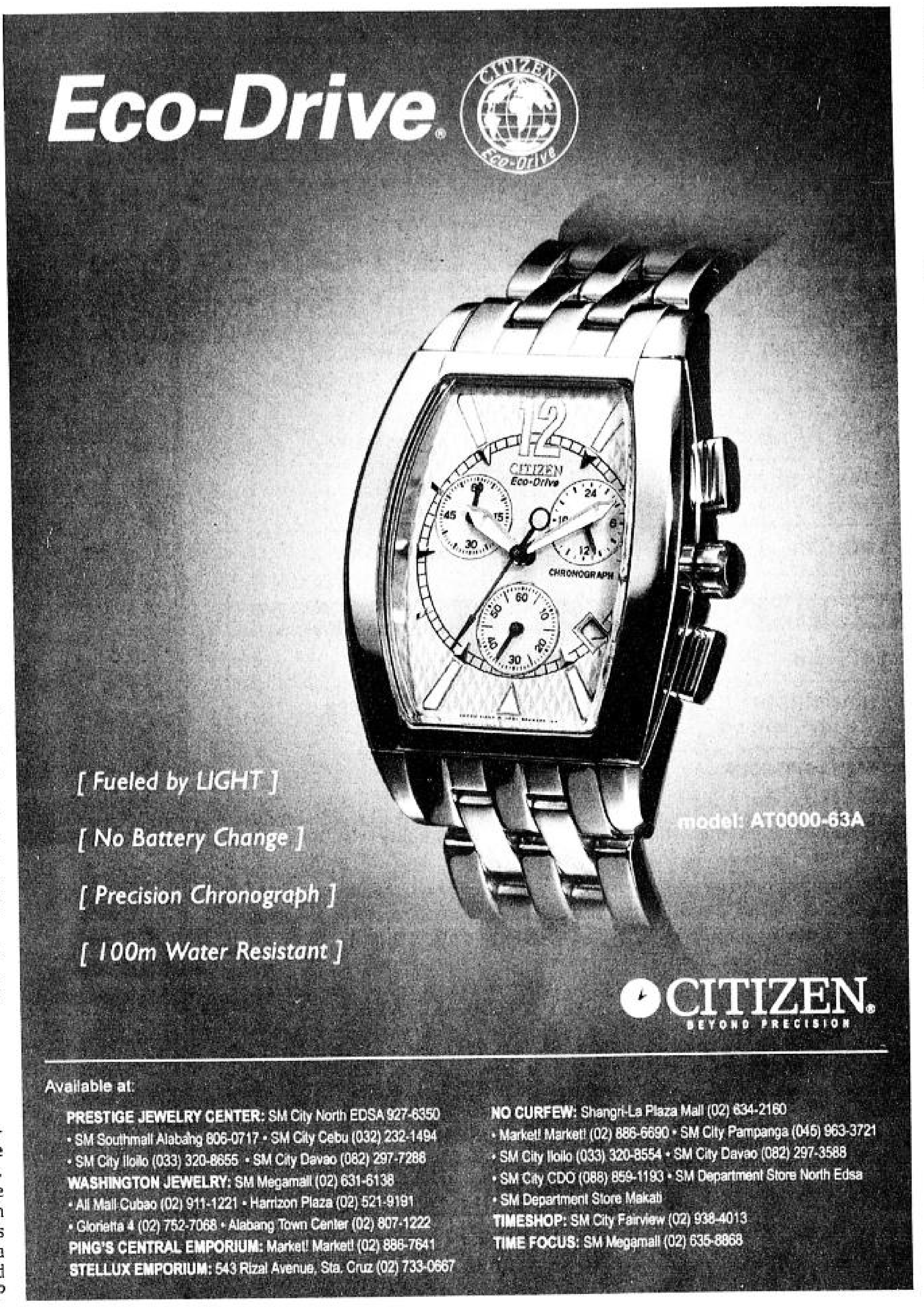
everything was in

place except Brown's signature on the documents. He was expected to take care of that task Thursday morning.

In 22 seasons as a coach in the National Basketball Association, Brown has compiled a 987-741 record. The title he won with the Detroit Pistons in 2004 was the only NBA championship of his career.

Glass would not comment on reports that the contract would be for five years and between $50 and 60 million.

The Knicks were Brown's favorite team when he was growing up in Brooklyn, and the eighth stop on his NBA coaching career will truly be a "dream job"—just what Brown called it earlier this year. *AP*



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4 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 STEALTH
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

6 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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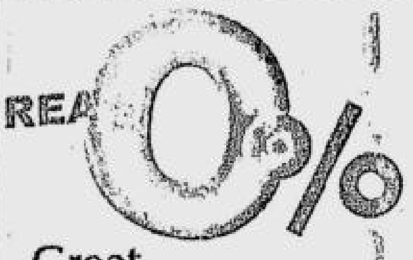

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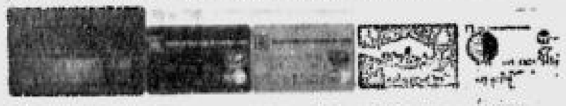


Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-354, Series of 2005

Where did Eala fail?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association, once the country's most popular, prestigious and profitable sports organization, has fallen on hard and trying times. That is an oft-repeated fact.

In 2003 and 2004, the PBA, under Commissioner Noli Eala, had its most turbulent and chaotic seasons in its 30-year history. Short of being in a state of distress, many bad things had happened since 2003 when Eala replaced Jun Bernardino. Now, most fans remember the PBA more for its failures than for its successes unlike in the good old days when the much respected Leo Prieto steered the league in grand fashion.

The usual sellout crowd has been missing from most of the games, something which is puzzling not only to the team owners but also to new PBA chair Ely Capacio, a former player who saw action during the golden years when Crispa and Toyota played classic matches before thousands of delighted spectators. What went wrong? Where have all the PBA fans gone? Where did Eala fail?

I see nothing wrong about conducting a performance audit on the commissioner. It is the inherent right of the members of the the PBA board to conduct an audit to determine the weak and strong points of the organization—and the key people who run its affairs. An evaluation audit is needed especially in times of trouble. It is not only a management prerogative, but also a normal practice among most corporations. A company audit is necessary in good times and bad.

Surprisingly, chair Capacio (of San Miguel Beer) appeared to be not keen on conducting the audit when he said, "It's premature to evaluate Eala's performance. We have not gone to that yet."

He also denied that there would be a PBA board meeting on Aug. 2 to discuss, among others, Eala's replacement following reports that some member-clubs have been shopping around for a new commissioner.

As a longtime PBA fan, I am also concerned about the future of the league. Under Eala's leadership, the PBA did not make any progress.

There was poor attendance in PBA games this year, including the recent Fiesta Conference won by San Miguel Beer. In previous years, the Reinforced Conference and the All-Filipino Cup, which was supposed to be the league's top grosser, also failed to attract the fans and became box-office flops. The foreign-flavored Invitationals was an even bigger disaster at the gates. In fact, one foreign team was hastily sent home after losing by a huge margin.

Of course there were many other problems bugging Eala, including the loss of television and radio revenues and ratings, the unabated complaints against biased officiating, the lack of a permanent playing venue, the absence of quality imports in the mold of Cyrus Mann, Billy Ray Bates, Byron "Snake" Jones, Norman Black, Bobby Parks and Tony Harris, the presence of a new crop of imports whose behavior sucks, the hiring of Fil-foreign players with dubious documents and the ticklish drug scandal.

On the drug scandal in 2003, it was the view of many, including former Sen. Robert Jaworski, that the human rights of the players concerned were violated because they were not given due process before their names and respective suspensions were announced to the public. The 58-year-old Jaworski, regarded as the "Living Legend" of Philippine basketball, said he was not saying that Eala or the PBA itself was at fault, "but the fact that the players didn't have much time to react before the information was revealed to the public placed the burden of proof on the players, who would otherwise dispute the findings." He also said that a Senate hearing found out that there were indeed flaws in the implementation of the PBA drug testing program which were made the basis for imposing penalties on several players like Jun Limpot and Noli Locsin.

On the issue of Fil-foreign players, two of the PBA's winningest coaches—Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan and Dante Silverio—said these players somewhat enlivened the league, but when their number grew beyond control, they eventually turned away the fans.

"*Nagsawa na ang mga tao* (the fans got fed up with them)," said Silverio, who coached the Toyota Tamaraws to five PBA championships in the early years of the league.

"Filipino basketball fans simply could not relate to these Fil-foreign players," said the 80-year-old Dalupan, who piloted the Crispa Redmanizers to 13 PBA titles. "These Fil-foreign players did not originally come from the Philippines. And they did not even study here."

If I may add, these Fil-foreign players have also unjustly put our homegrown players at a disadvantage because their coming closed the door of opportunity to many of our aspiring native talents.

More incentives for athletes eyed

A CENTRAL Luzon lawmaker will soon file a measure proposing a number of cash and non-monetary incentives to boost the country's campaign for the overall championship in the Manila Southeast Asian Games in November.

Pampanga Rep. Francis L. Nepomuceno, chair of the House committee on civil service and professional regulation, said that he would move to increase the cash awards to P300,000 for a gold medal, P150,000 for a silver and P75,000 for a bronze.

Under Republic Act 9064, a SEA Games gold is worth P100,000, silver P50,000 and bronze P10,000.

In addition, Nepomuceno wants to amend RA 9064 by rewarding medalists in the SEA Games with free low-cost housing through the National Housing Authority or Home Development Mutual Fund, coverage in medical insurance including qualified dependents through the Health Maintenance Organization, life and accident insurance, monthly pension after retirement and job placement in government agencies for qualified athletes and their dependents.

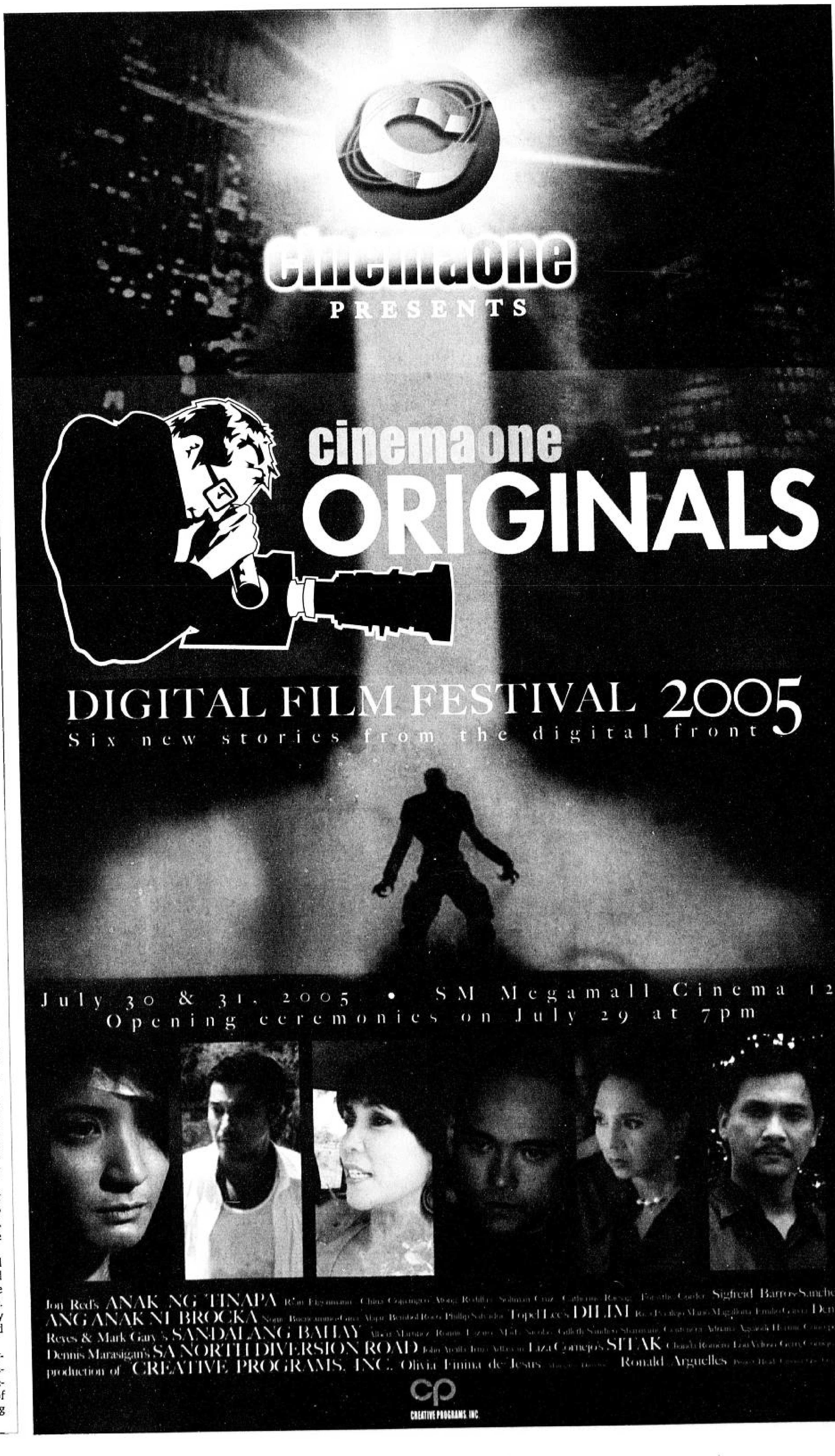
Nepomuceno said that he would also move for a provident fund for the athletes and push them to form a cooperative that will supply sports equipment and construct facilities.

"Through a cooperative, the athletes will have a steady source of income because they will be given priority in constructing gymnasiums, stadiums, track ovals and purchase of shoes, basketballs, volleyballs, tennis rackets, among others," Nepomuceno said.

The third-term solon stressed that outstanding athletes deserve better benefits from the government because of their great service to the nation in seeking sports excellence in international competitions.

He said that the incentives would also extend to the coaches and trainers.

CHARITY MATCH: Formula One driver Michael Schumacher of Germany controls the ball during a charity soccer match between the Formula One drivers team and Hungarian "All Stars" in Budapest's Puskas stadium. The Formula One drivers were in Hungary for the weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix. REUTERS



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WORLD YOUTH CHESS

So finishes tied for 1st

FILIPINO Fide Master Wesley So reserved his best for last Thursday night, stunning erstwhile pacesetter Srinath Narayanan of India to share first place in the 2005 World Youth Chess Championships in Belfort, France.

The win, a fitting follow-up to his victory over Poland's Dariusz Swiercz Wednesday, gave So a total of 8.5 points after 11 rounds in the boys' 11-12 division which drew 125 players.

So, who handled the black pieces, matched Narayanan's output as they wound up tied with Russian FM Sanan Sjugirov, So's conqueror in the ninth round Tuesday.

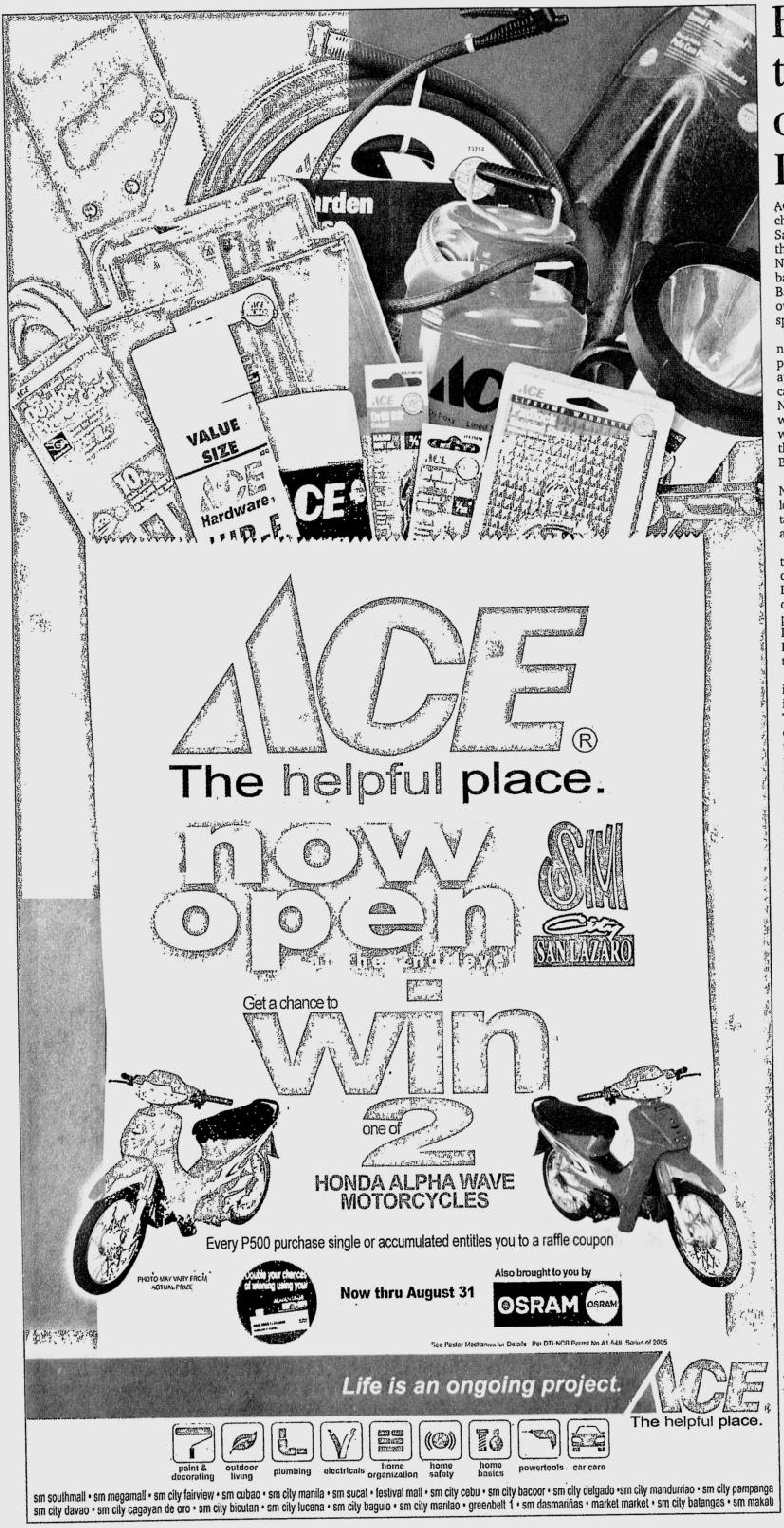
Narayanan was held to a draw by American Ray Robson, who wound up with eight points, in their board 2 tussle.

Still tangling in Round 11 at presstime are 7.5 pointers Samvel Ter Sahakyan of Armenia and SP Sethuraman of India in board 3; Sebastian Ermito of Argentina and Yifan Hou of China in board 4.

The 12-year-old So, a grade six student at St. Francis of Assisi in Bacoor, Cavite, improved on his 13th place finish in the 2004 edition of the tourney held in Crete, Greece. He posted 7.5 points then.

So, accompanied by his father William, was the lone Philippine entry.

Roy Luarca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Banal takes over Lions

ACCEPTING the challenge of steering San Beda College to the next stage of the NCAA men's basketball tournament, Koy Banal officially took over the coaching spot Wednesday.

The Red Lions' Final Four bid are in peril following a disappointing first round campaign in the NCAA as they finished with a 1-6 card and wound up tied with the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers at the cellar.

That led to coach Nash Racela's ouster, leaving Banal the tough task of turning things around for San Beda.

"There is no mountain too tall that God cannot move it," said Banal, who expressed optimism that it is still possible for the Red Lions to vie for Final Four slots if they work together.

Banal has won titles in the UAAP after guiding the Far Eastern U Tamaraws to the 2003 championship, and in the PBL as he helped the Viva Mineral Water-backed FEU to the Platinum Cup title.

"There is only one thing we can do and that is to believe that God is faithful and an answering God," said Banal. "I believe everything is possible to those who believe. I can't rely on my ability alone."

The Red Lions are four games behind fourth placer Mapua Cardinals (5-2).

They must sweep their seven games in the second round to at least earn a playoff game in the Final Four.

VICTORIOUS VENUS
Fresh from her thrilling Wimbledon conquest, Venus Williams proves she's as focused and as sharp as ever in a 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Sania Mirza at the Bank of the West Classic in Stanford, California. AP

Atienza brothers guest in beach volley opener

MANILA Sports Council (Masco) chief Ali Atienza, his brother Kim and Philippine Southeast Asian Games chair Roberto Pagdanganan are among the sporting luminaries expected to grace the opening of the 2005 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament at the Baywalk tomorrow.

The three will make the ceremonial toss of the two-day volleyball extravaganza, together with organizer Tisha Abundo and representatives of sponsors Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Toyota Pasong Tamo, Villa de Oro, Acsat, Speedo (official outfitter) and Mikasa (official ball).

For the first time in its three-year history, the Petron tournament is being held right at the heart of the premier city after stints at the Island Cove in Cavite, Subic Bay Freeport, Clearwater Country Club in Clarkfield, Pampanga, Cantada Sports Center in Bicutan and La Salle-Greenhills in San Juan.

"I'm sure many beach volleyball aficionados have given us the thumbs up by holding the third leg in Manila," said Abundo. "I expect an enthusiastic throng on Saturday and Sunday at the Baywalk, where Masco will be building a makeshift sandcourt near the Manila Yacht Club."

Champions of this year's beach volley tournament will get P10,000, plus trophies, with their runners-up receiving P5,000 and trophies.

A new set of champions are expected to emerge in the third leg of the quarterly series as national titlists Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena, who won this year's second leg, and three-time winner Jennifer Bohawe and Patricia Siatan, who ruled the initial leg, have already advanced to the grand finals slated on Oct. 1-2.

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10:30 a.m.—AMACU vs. UM
4 p.m.—New Era vs. BCSCMC

STI College made it three in a row by downing last year's runner-up Centro Escolar University, 70-64, yesterday in the NAASCU men's basketball tournament at the UM gym.

The STI Olympians relied on a balanced scoring attack starring Bimbo Legaspi, Bong Botin, Dexter Micutuan and Marlon Martin to turn back the Scorpions and remain unbeaten.

Legaspi, Boti, Micutuan and Martin combined for 45 points for STI, which had earlier beaten AMA Computer University and New Era University.

Deo Carillo topscored with 20 points for CEU, which dropped to 1-2.

Earlier, University of Makati outlasted Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 90-80, to barge into the win column after two consecutive losses.

Gerald Lorica sizzled with 31 points for the Wizards.

The scores

First Game

UMAK 90—Gerald Lorica 31, James Mangaran 13, Jeff Tamaray 10, Nograda 8, Tapit 8, Banguibang 7, Barrios 6, Domangcas 2, Commerciase 2, Del Rosario 2, Lunag 1, Santos 0.

PLP 80—Chris Somera 16, Patrick Cassula 15, Rhoel Asay 12, Valenzona 8, Dela Cruz 7, Galindez 5,

Cabrera 4, Pascual 4, Tayor 3, Biala 2, Navo 2, Cordero 2, Viernes 0.

Quarters:19-17; 41-42; 62-57; 90-80

Second game

STI 70—Legaspi 12, Botin 12, Micutuan 11, Martin 10,Belano 9, Mabayo 5, Lunar 2, Ebuenga 2, Dia 2,

Stapley 2, Wong 1, Espiritu 1.

CEU 64—Carillo 20, Magno 13, F. Romulo 7, Macasaet 7, Franco 5, Camacho 5, Gatdula 4, Cordero 3,

Cristobal 2, Salmat 0.

Quarters: 14-18, 44-30, 54-42, 70-64.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback:
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EMMIE G. VELARDE

WHAT'S INSIDE

Zsa Zsa, one of the top draws in ABS-CBN's recent "Kapamilya Summer Caravan sa Amerika," was in a hurry to return to Manila after the San Francisco leg of the tour, which featured a live telecast of "ASAP Mania '05."

The reason: She didn't want to miss Dolphy's 77th birthday bash. Rushing to the airport right after the finale, the "Divine Diva" made it! Read about Dolphy's celebration in Viewfinder, A2-3.

Aga is fed up with politics A2-2

Scarlett, Jennifer and Ate Guy A3-1

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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR COSMETIC SURGERY CONSULTATION

Over the years, men and women all over the country strive to restore the vitality and effortless beauty of youthfulness. However, while cosmetic surgical techniques and procedures are constantly being improved with safer procedures that are less traumatic and more effective, we are now in a highly charged environment that it seems as if there is never enough time to do those little nagging tasks of importance, much less take a few weeks out for a surgical recovery.

To make the most out of a clinic visit, following is a potential patient's guide on what to do before, during and after the consultation with a cosmetic surgeon.

BEFORE THE CONSULTATION

Before scheduling a consultation with a cosmetic surgeon, ask for brochures describing the doctor's practice, and develop a list of questions in order to discuss what is involved with a specific procedure. To help you on this, here are some of the guidelines to observe prior to your visit:

- Ask other medical specialists for a referral.
- Get to know as much as you can about the doctor before you make the appointment.
- Make sure the doctor is a reputable member of an organization of cosmetic surgeons who specialize and that he has documented education in performing the procedures you are considering.
- Research on the procedure you're interested in and enlist the services of someone who can help you.
- Find out in advance about the range of fees so you can be prepared to stay within your budget.

The consultation visit can run between fifteen minutes and a full hour in some cases. Even if you come back two or three times before your surgery, most doctors charge only the one consultation fee. However, consultation fees can add up if you will be seeing several doctors. Based on what you find out even before you make your appointment, you may be able to rule out some of the doctors on your list.

DURING THE CONSULTATION

In cosmetic surgery, it is common practice for a doctor to hand you a mirror at the beginning of the consultation and ask you to show him what is bothering you. It is your responsibility to communicate your goals to the doctor. While you are not expected to know exactly what you need on your own, you should at least be able to explain as specifically as possible what you don't like about your face, body or smile, what looks different or not as good as it used to, and what you want to change or improve.

It is advisable to prepare a list of questions to bring with you to your consultation visit so you don't forget anything important to ask. Save the questions about fees, payment and scheduling for the doctor's secretary. You need to know the basics of the procedure and how they apply directly to you specifically.

Understanding the limitations of the procedure is also crucial. Skin type, degree of skin elasticity, individual healing, bone structure, general health, dental health, previous surgery to the area, and many other factors will determine to some extent the quality of the result you can expect.

AFTER THE CONSULTATION

There is no precise formula for choosing the right surgeon for cosmetic procedures. Ultimately, you have to use your own judgment and instincts. Never go with the first or only doctor you see; always get at least a second opinion and preferably three or more before you choose. Even if you may like the first doctor you see and feel very comfortable with him, go and see at least one or two others for confirmation and comparison. After the third, you may still find you want to go with the first one you saw, but only after you see others are you really qualified to choose wisely.

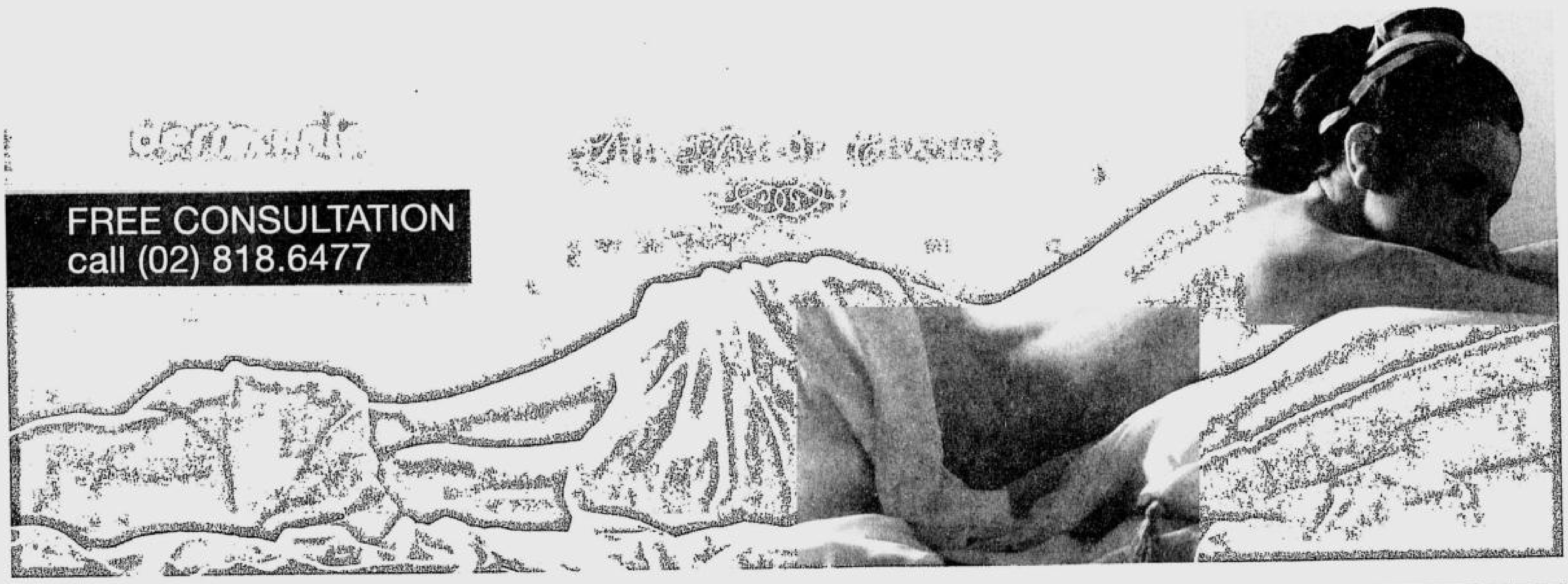
Unless you feel comfortable with the doctor and what he or she is recommending for you, wait and re-think it again or see another doctor until it feels like a good fit. If it doesn't feel right, you should always continue with the interview process. Once you have narrowed down your list to two or three names, go back and see the frontrunner again. You should always see the surgeon who will be doing your actual procedure at least twice before the operation. This second meeting should leave you feeling confident that you have made a wise choice.

Finding the right cosmetic doctor is a very personal journey. What appeals to one person, may be totally inappropriate or offensive to another. You owe it to yourself to approach cosmetic procedure like an empowered and educated consumer. Working with a legitimate cosmetic surgery consultant who can give you an impartial view on what your options are, is a worthwhile investment.

Dermclinic, one of the most trusted dermatological clinics in the country, offers Professional Cosmetic Surgery administered by its league of true skin experts. Combined with cutting edge facilities and technology, every cosmetic surgery procedure is handled with an unparalleled passion that transforms this science into an art.

To help you know more about the procedure or service you are interested in, it would be best to discuss with the doctor/surgeon your needs and expectations. Call or visit Dermclinic's nearest branch for a **FREE CONSULTATION** or contact the Dermclinic hotline at **818-6477**, for inquiries.

About Dermclinic Dr. Vinson B. Pineda, a well-respected and internationally recognized dermatologist established Dermclinic more than 30 years ago and is now considered as an institution which has mastered the art and science of skin health and wellness. In fact Dermclinic, has been the learning ground of some notable dermatologist in town today.



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Aga fed up with protests

'Stop these rallies,' he says. 'People just want to get on with their lives'

By Nini Valera

POLITICS has never been on Aga Muhlach's mind.

But last Monday, while watching the President's State-of-the-Nation Address on television during a press conference, the actor revealed that he was saddened by the turn of events in the country.

"Before I left for London, there were already rallies on the streets," he said, speaking in Filipino. "I return, and there are still rallies. When will this end? *Nakakasawa na!*"

Aga was in the British capital two weeks ago, arriving there a day after the first London blast with the cast of his sitcom "Ok Fine! 'To Ang Gusto N'yo" to shoot an episode and to promote ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel (TFC). He returned to Manila a day after the second explosion.

"It has been like this for as long as I can recall," he said, referring to the ongoing protests in Manila. "My God! It's now 2005. Please stop this. We're not getting younger anymore. That's why I get irritated with the people holding the rallies. It's as if they have nothing to do. They can no longer fool us by saying they represent the masses. Who are the masses? There are just a few thousands on the streets compared with the millions who just want to get on with their lives."

He said he usually had no strong political opinions, but that now he was aware the country was on a downward spin.

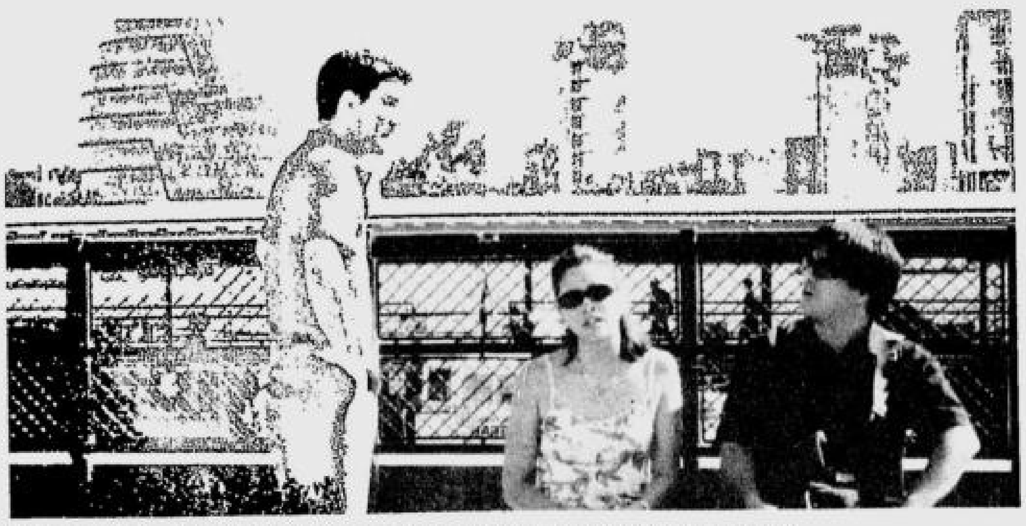
"They are destroying my country, the country where I was born and raised and where my children were born and [are being] raised," he said of politicians. "Politics is destroying the country."

He cited a report by a foreign journalist about the practice of people in office, claiming urban development projects as their own in billboards.

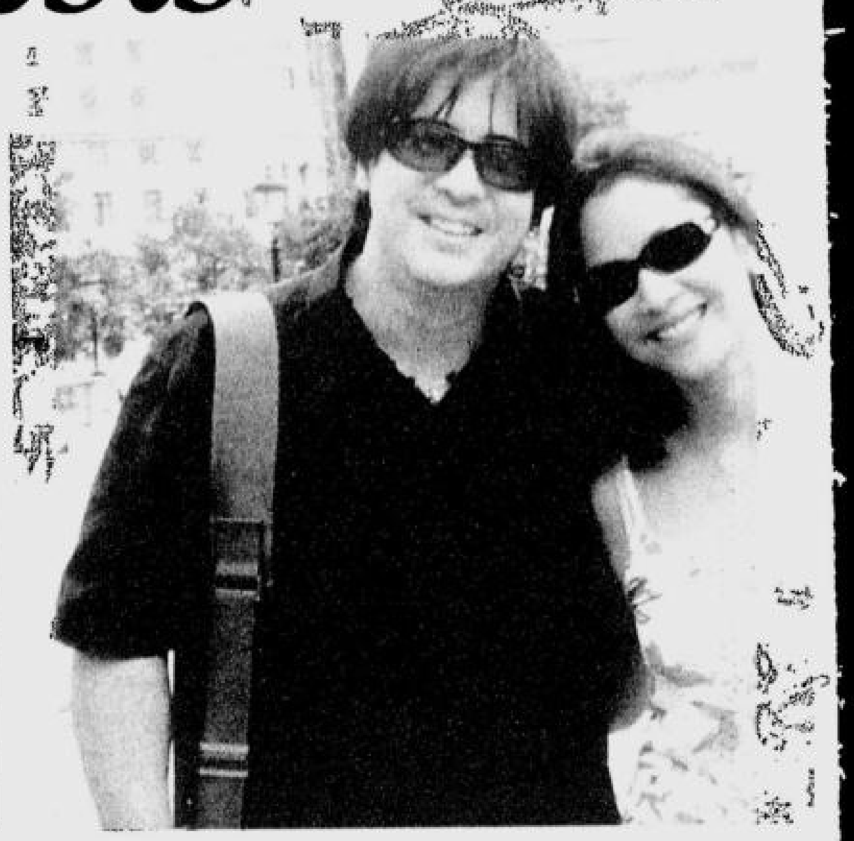
Aga explained: "This journalist wrote that the Philippines was fine, but he observed how this and that politician would announce that he or she was behind a project. But we should realize that it's the people's money that is being spent on those projects."

Another incident that peeved the actor happened on his way to the press con.

"I was driving on Edsa ... so happy there was no traffic," he recounted. "I told myself I'd be relishing this drive. But when I reached an intersection near ABS-CBN, traffic was stalled by two public officials who got down from their cars to talk. They were just talking there, stopping the flow of vehicles for about three minutes. I know who they are, but I'm not saying."



IN LONDON with Edu Manzano and Agot Isidro: Impressed with Britons...



...but migration is still not an option for him.

He claimed he was taking the middle ground. "I'm not against [President Arroyo]. Last night, I saw her on TV explaining some of the issues. The fact that she knows that people are against her is enough for me."

Aga marveled at the resiliency of the British. "After the bombing, they went about their business as if nothing happened," he said.

Talking to Filipinos in London, the actor realized there was no longing among them to return to the Philippines.

"Some of them have not returned to the Philippines in 18, 20 years," he said. "They've adapted to the lifestyle, the culture, here. That's what I'm saying. When you see the difference between our country and another country, you'll feel the same. Just look at the street where I lived a long time ago in Mandaluyong. We had an apartment there and I remember it was very, very nice. Even the water in the canals was very clear.
while back, the
remember. Cont
skelter along the

Still, migratin
option for Aga.

"It would be
But I'm OK here
on a vacation a
what I'd like to
province."

Aga, wife Ch
Atasha and An
their farm in Ba
spent there wit
live in a tent be
there," Aga said.
"makeshift" stru
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like that."

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Cebu	Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23	Oct. 8
Davao	Aug. 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Oct. 15
Baguio	Aug. 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7	Oct. 22
Manila	Aug. 5, 12,19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7, 14	Oct. 27

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	- 2nd Prize	- P 300,000
	- 3rd Prize	- P 200,000
Regional Finals		- P 100,000
Weekly		- P 20,000

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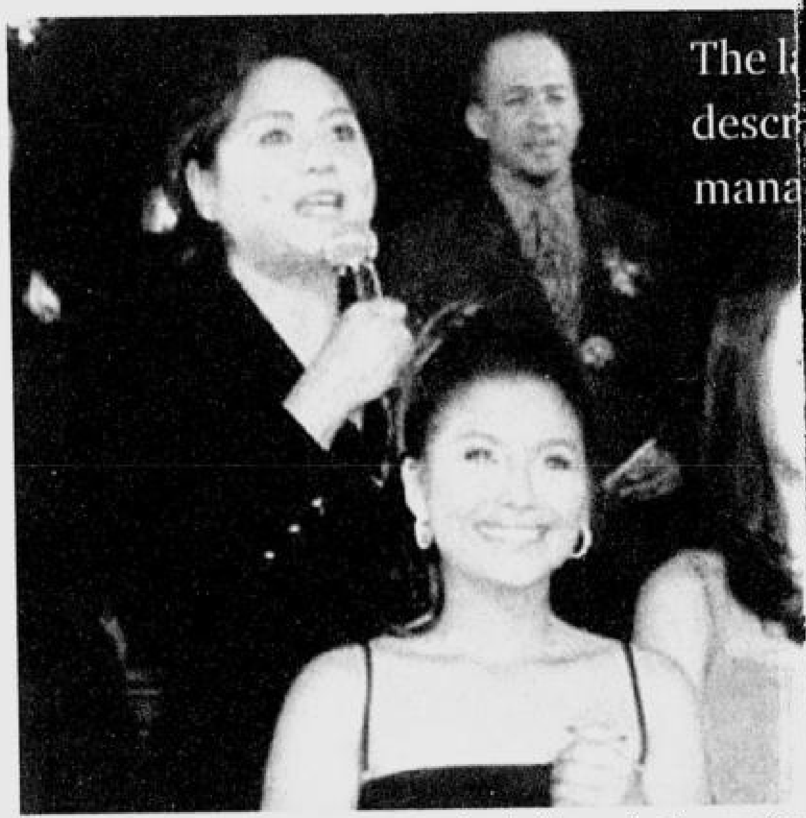

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CHARO Santos-Concio in San Francisco for the "Kapamilya Summer Car
Ann Go and Sarah Geronimo

Officer C

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

JUST TO illustrate how exacting Charo Santos-Concio is as a lady boss: Her trip back to Manila was less than three hours away, but the ABS-CBN EVP and Entertainment head was still monitoring from her hotel suite the live telecast of "ASAP 2005," which was being held at the nearby Ayala Mall Cebu parking lot.

O.C. could very well mean Officer Charo.

More recently, the whole of last week, the TV exec was in California for the "Kapamilya Summer Caravan sa Amerika," again making sure everything went well.

TAKE FIVE

Describe your management style.

Nanay na nanay. I'm like a mother hen to my staff. A mom who gives tough love because I also have to discipline people. When I'm monitoring the shows and they make a mistake, I send a text message immediately to reprimand them.

Your friend [filmmaker] Olivia Lamasan once said that you have absolute confidence in your staff.

I trust them. I give them space to make mistakes because that's the only way they are going to grow. If I dictate on them all the time, they will never become self-assured and independent.

What were you thinking when you joined motorcades during the network's recent provincial caravans?

I was reminiscing on my days as an actress, when I rode a *carroza* [in the Santacruzan] and the floats [in th
Manila Film Festival] for the mo
Alamat ni Julian Makab
"Kisapmata." It was fun!

**You also have outreach pro
The Haven Center for Won
Children in Cebu, a facility ru
Department of Social Welfare
velopment]. What was your
like?**

I cried when I met the wo
children. I can detach mys
such situations, bu
makes me appreciate
more. It never fails to
in perspective for me.
crisis we go through
and in life is noth
pared to the problems of the
The Haven.

I met a blind woman at the
her only wish was to serenade
the song "I Can" [from the m
Re-Mi"]. She told me that sh
watch me on "Maalaala Mo Ka
she went blind.

**One of your staffers said your
ABS-CBN show these days i
Boy"?**

I watch it while I'm doing m
It's very engaging. I learn a lot
experiences of the guests. The
spires me; it enriches me.

**Instead of scandal TV, you ar
for inspiring, empowering TV**

That is what we need. Th
much poverty, pain, and unha
the country right now. I think w
continually aim to boost the

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But when I returned there a
treet was no longer the one I
iner vans were parked helter-
street."
to another country is not an

asy to say why not [migrate]?
The best thing for me is to go
d come back home. You know
ry? I'd like to try living in the

lene Gonzales and their twins
res spend most weekends on
ngas. The longest time he has
this family is two weeks. "We
use I'm still building my house
Now they have what he calls a
ture.) "There's no TV, no Inter-
life. Back to basics. I think I'd

Dolphy still our top comic at 77

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday's "Quizon Avenue" show was a treat because it marked **Dolphy**'s 77th birthday. Most of the king comic's contemporaries are no longer around, so it's really impressive that Dolphy is still hosting his own comedy TV show at the ripe, old age of 77.

We also note that he's livelier now than he was some years ago, when his scenes in his old sitcom were cut down to the bare minimum, in deference to his advanced age and diminished energy.

Something good must have happened after that low period, because Dolphy's TV appearances now are more dynamic. Perhaps his life partner **Zsa Zsa Padilla** has had something to do with it?

Still, some show biz people speculate that the time for Dolphy's retirement may not be far off. At his birthday bash on TV, Dolphy himself perhaps inadvertently boosted notions along that line when he said ABS-CBN was where he started his TV career, and that was where he also wanted to end it.

Well, whatever. As long as he gets good, innovative material to do, Dolphy still has a couple of TV seasons left in him.

But he could be looking forward to retirement. After all, as he himself counts it, he's been working in show biz for more than 60 years!

That's longer than some people are alive! Nobody, not even some of his children who still depend on him for financial assistance, could possibly begrudge his wanting to take it easy, for a change!

The 77th birthday show was enlivened by some musical numbers with a perky novelty touch to them, like **Kitkat**'s medley of saucy old songs, and **Ai-Ai delas Alas**' comedy musical suite. They went on longer than needed, but still had a positive impact on viewers.

Another highlight was **Susan Roces**' appearance to wish her old Sampaguita Pictures colleague a very happy birthday. Susan was all smiles as she brought in the 77th candle that was placed and lit on Dolphy's huge birthday cake—and he was tickled pink that she had given his celebration a special cachet with her appearance!

Should Dolphy choose to conclude his performing career in the months to come, who would take his place? The popular younger TV-film male comics today include **Vic Sotto**, Joey de Leon, **Ogie Alcasid**, **Michael V**, **Vhong Navarro**, **Willie Revillame**, and Dolphy's own scion, **Jeffrey Quizon**.

In terms of popularity on the big screen, Sotto is clearly the front-runner, with a number of hits under his belt. Runner-up is Navarro, whose movie career began with a bang, but lost some steam afterwards.

The other comedians on our list have flourishing careers on television, but the movies are still where big-time show biz popularity is affirmed. So, we urge them to initiate their own film projects to test their cachet and clout on the big screen—where the stellar action really is!

'Right to Royalty'

BE part of the excitement of watching the hottest pop, ballad, R&B and rock artists performing in "Right to Royalty," a concert against music piracy on July 29 at The Fort Open Field, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Performers include the APO Hiking Society, **Barbie Almabis**, **Cynthia Alexander**, **Geneva Cruz**, **Grace Nono**, **Jay-R**, **Joey Ayala**, Makiling Ensemble, **Nina**, **Noel Cabangon**, **Paolo Santos**, Pinikpikan, Radha, Seven Shots of Wisdom, Side A and True Faith.

The show is presented by HP in partnership with MTV and VH1. Call (02) 889-9251.

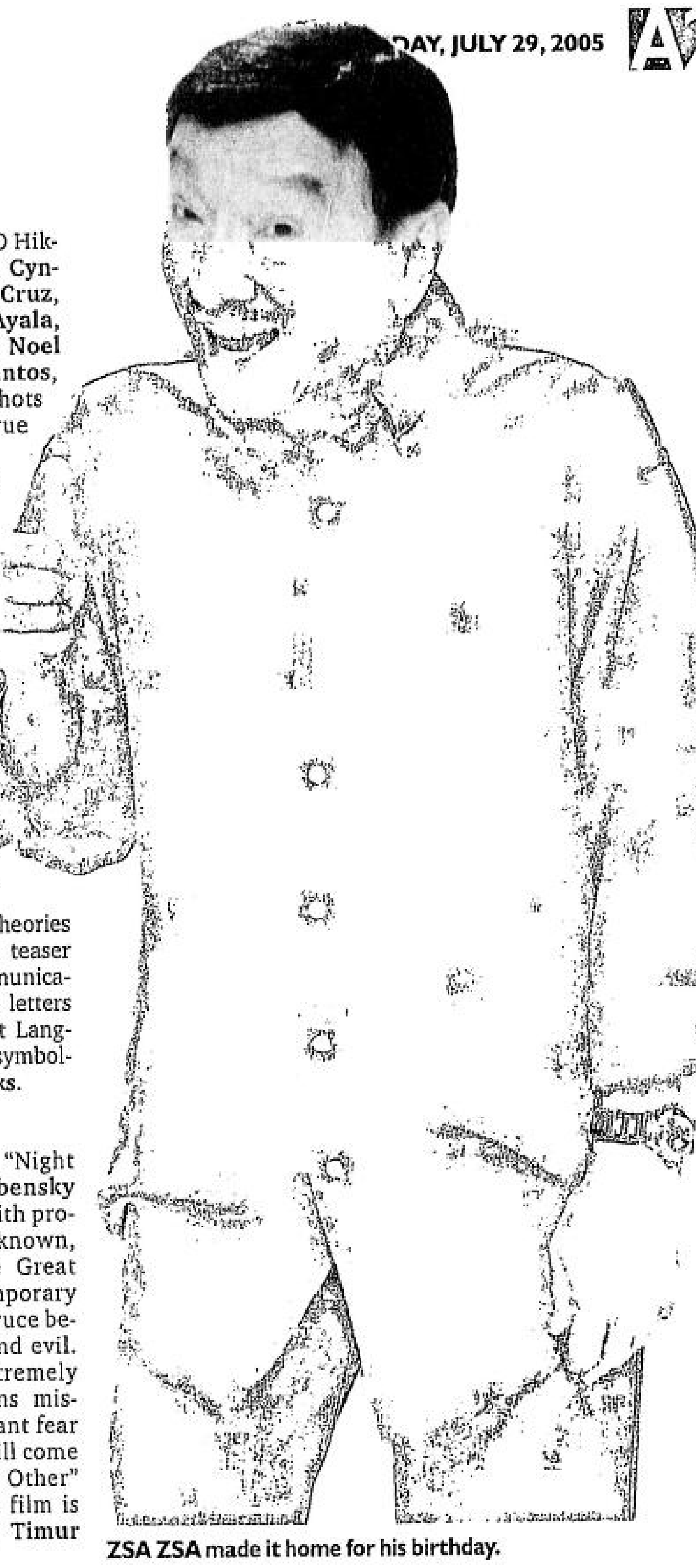
'Da Vinci Code'

VIEWERS looking forward to watching the film version of **David Brown's** bestseller "The Da Vinci Code" should look out for the film's teaser trailer, which started showing on local screens alongside the new action-thriller, "Stealth."

In keeping with the book's theories about hidden messages, the teaser contains a few secret communications. At one point, scattered letters briefly spell out "Find Robert Langdon," the name of the novel's symbologist. The film stars **Tom Hanks**.

'Night Watch'

IN THE Russian film "Night Watch," **Konstantin Khabensky** plays a man who's tasked with protecting a child he's never known, who's considered as "The Great Other." Set in contemporary Moscow, the film tells of a truce between the forces of good and evil. But the hiatus is extremely volatile, and there remains mistreat, hatred and the constant fear that an ancient prophecy will come true, in which "The Great Other" will hold the balance. The film is written and directed by **Timur Bekmambetov**.



ZSA ZSA made it home for his birthday.

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van," with singing champs Sheryn Regis, Rachelle

VIDA G. VELARDE

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Where is TV headed in the future?

I think viewers will get much better programs than what we have now [because of the competition]. They will become more selective. It's really a challenge for us.

It's as if we are asking the audiences to invest their time in our shows. So the challenge for the creative and production people is to come out with the best ideas and to implement them so they can continually connect with the viewers.

In the end, content will still be king. Whoever offers the best content will win.

How do you make sure that you are constantly in touch with the masses?

I was a *probinsiyana* from Mindoro who dreamed of going to Manila. And like the fans who line up at the studio today, I also used to ride buses and tricycles, and wait for hours just to watch the noontime show of Ariel Ureta and Tina Revilla.

I was a movie fan, the type who would watch Guy-and-Pip [Nora Aunor-Tirso Cruz III] movies on the first day. Until now, I'm still a fan. *Kinikilig ako* whenever I see Piolo (I get goosebumps whenever I see Piolo Pascual).

Even though I am now a TV executive, I make it a point to talk to everyone. In the office, I talk to the security guards and the janitors.

At home, my focus group is composed of my *kasambahay* [household help]. They sometimes tell me: "*Ay*, Ma'am Charo, we didn't like your episode of 'Maalaala' last night because we didn't cry that much!"

No vacation paradise but still worth a visit

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THE LATEST Michael Bay-helmed Hollywood flick, "The Island," raises questions about the sanctity of human life that we've heard before. As expected, we get deafening answers via death-defying stunts typical of the director. It's a modern-day fable about cloning that's a hodge-podge of "A.I.," "I, Robot" and even "The Truman Show" at first. But as it progresses, its subdued philosophical explorations give meaning and relevance to all the bluster.

The title pertains to a raffle prize that's periodically awarded in a hidden facility that claims to be designed for "contamination" survivors. In an era that allows rich people to replace their failing organs with cloned parts, their healthy human duplicates are secretly force-grown in that covert laboratory. When the time for "harvesting" these organs comes, the clones are led to believe that they're going away on a dream tour in an uncontaminated location. They have no idea that they're really cattle on the way to the slaughterhouse.

Nicely cast in the role of rebellious clone protagonist Lincoln Six-Echo is charismatic Ewan McGregor, whose ease at portraying perennially dazed and inquisitive cookie-cutter characters is evident here. He gives credibility to the role, aided by a capable costar and a script sprinkled with deadpan humor. Scarlet Johansson complements McGregor as the nimble Jordan Two-Delta, whose naivete is similarly believable.

"The Island" is enjoyable despite its predictability. Long chase sequences, slow-mo shots of crashing vehicles and even the villain's comeuppance (Sean Bean plays a baddie for the nth time) all proceed as scheduled. It gets dull when the clone heroes are flung into very loud action scenes. And we feel no concern for their safety.

Still, it's decently done. Visually, traces of "Gattaca", "Minority Report" and "The Fifth Element" can be seen, as the film's environments are made replete by both antiseptic and complicated set designs. Nothing truly outstanding or unique, but they work pretty well in shaping this particular world, nonetheless.

Overall, the film is cohesive enough to draw one in and see it through the end, without droning on about the "sanctity of sentient life" message too much. "The Island" is not the definitive summer blockbuster getaway, but it's worth "visiting" at least once.

EWAN McGregor and Scarlett Johansson in "The Island"

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MTRCB RATING: GENERAL AUDIENCE

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TV GUIDE

Friday, July 29, [illegible]

club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
Laura Jean
ABC

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN						Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championships (Finals)				Sentro	World Pool Championships (Finals)					Big News	Real Stories		ESPN Golf: Canadian Women's Open	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Friends	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Temptation Island 3		The OC		Newswatch Now	South Border		Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		MTV		Nuts	JVC Badminton Open				IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23						X-Men Evolution	Spiderman	The Batman	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	Pimp My Ride # 205	Rockola	MTV Get Spotted		Trippin # 103	Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Live Will Smith in Africa	MTV Live Outkast	MTV Play		MTV Divas		MTV Urban Beats	Handpicked: Brooke Valentine	Viva La Bam # 108	Trippin # 103	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Remakes	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	U.S. Senior Open Golf C'ship	World Snooker Tour Embassy World Champs							X Games Invitational	U.S. Senior Open Golf C'ship 1st rd.					
Solar Sports					IBF Malaysian Open '05				Greatest Classics				Sports Desk					TV Over Time	
Sports Plus			Porsche md.8	This Is The PGA Tour		Strongman		Golf Hawaii 2004	World's Greatest Auto Shows		Tour De France	Monster Jam		FMX		Inside the PGA	US Bank C'ship Highlights		Buick Open Day1
Cinemax	A Soldier's Story (2:40 PM)			Bad To The Bone (4:15 PM)			Batteries Not Included				Into Thin Air: Death On Everest			Hard To Kill			The Firm (10:35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Judging Amy		Valentin			Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Dinosaurs			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Moms On Strike	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Great Quakes		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Fireballs From Space		Deadly Women		Crime Night	
National Geographic		Deep Jungle				Frontline Diaries		Wildlife Detectives	Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge	Woo! The Ghost Of The Great Salt Lakes		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Castro			
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Antonia Part 2	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia				The Collector					
AXN						Worst Case Scenario		PSI Factor (Season III)		Beastmaster		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)		I Still Know What You Did Last Summer			
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Extreme Days				Worst Case Scenario	
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Mask (3:45PM)				Neil Simon's The Goodbye Girl (5:45 PM)	Head Of State (5:55 PM)			Empire (7:25 PM)			The Untouchables				Lara Croft: Tomb Raider The Cradle Of Life	
Star Movies			The Human Stain				Evelyn (5:20 PM)			8MM				28 Days Later				Johnny English (10:50PM)	
Cinema One		Dalawang Kumander Sa WAC				Wansapanataym (Movie)				Yakapin Mo Ang Umaga				Makuha Ka Sa Tingin				Di Que Si	
EWTN	Deep Conversation Deep Prayer	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Angel Force	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Theology Of The Body	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Miracles Of The Cross	EWTN Bookmark	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

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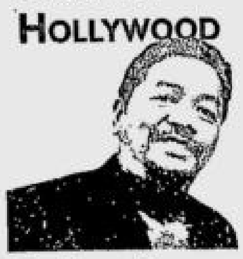
Scarlett Johansson, Jennifer Aniston and Ate Guy



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

NEW YORK—Take One (opening tidbits): At the incredibly hot (we mean the unbearable temperature in the 100s) "ASAP '05 Live in LA," held recently at the Rose Bowl, Martin Nievera had the guts to wear leather pants—and in black!... In the same show, the blocking of Lea Salonga, Kuh Ledesma and ZsaZsa Padilla in their number together left no doubt as to who was the top diva. Lea was not only in the middle; she was also way out in front of the ramp that jutted from the main stage while Kuh and ZsaZsa were literally in the sidelines behind her... And what happened to our usually better-dressed Ate Guy? Her orange dress was a terrible assault on the senses, just like the oppressive heat of the sun.

Between Allen and Bay

Unitel's New York man, Vincent Nebrida, agreed with me that Scarlett Johansson is one of Hollywood's loveliest, as the actress arrived at the lavish premiere party of her action movie, "The Island," at the Roseland Ballroom in the Broadway district. Vincent told me that the venue was not normally floor-to-ceiling white—it was redone for the bash, in keeping with the film's futuristic, sanitary white setting. Scarlett's co-stars, Michael Clarke Duncan and Djimon Hounsou stuck to the motif by wearing white suits while she was ravishing in gold.

Earlier in the day, Scarlett was positively Brigitte Bardot-ish with her bangs during our interview with her at a Park Avenue Hotel. When asked to distinguish between Michael Bay, her "The Island" director, and Woody Allen (she's getting to be Allen's favorite—she stars in his acclaimed new film "Match Point" and is scheduled to do another one with him), the actress, a no-nonsense, unpretentious chick, shared a revealing anecdote.

Scarlett, memorable in such films as "Lost in Translation" and "Girl With a Pearl Earring," narrated; "The only way I can really describe the difference between them is by telling you about the time Woody asked me, 'So what are you doing next?' I said, 'I'm making a movie with Michael Bay.' Woody said, 'Who?' (Laughter) I said Michael Bay did really big hits like 'Pearl Harbor,' 'Armageddon' and 'The Rock.' Woody looked at me like I was speaking in Japanese. He's very shy but he can be very funny."

The actress offered more about the New Yorker Woody, who seems to have regained his directing genius in London (both "Match Point" and his new project are set not in his usual Gotham but in England's capital beset recently by bombings): "He knows exactly what he wants a scene to be like. If Woody were blonde, 20 and female, he would be playing my role. He knows how he wants my character to sound and look like."

Michael, famous for his loud, action-packed movies, is, well, loud in person, too, according to Scarlett: "Michael is boisterous, obnoxious and rude—he's all these things yet at the same time, he is an incredibly charming and endearing guy."

Go figure.

A reporter pounced on "obnoxious." Scarlett laughed and said, "Oh my God. I would be hanging 40 feet in the air and he'd go, hey, don't be such a wimp! I'd say, Michael, I swear to God—if I don't get an iPod out of this..."

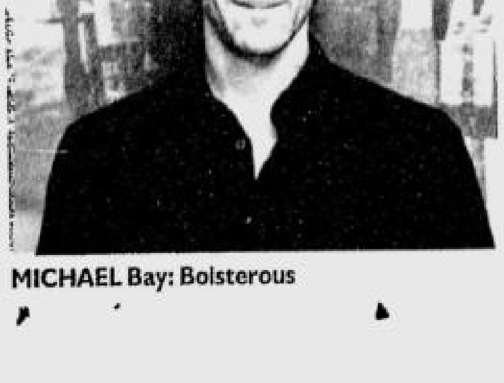
We can vouch that Josh Harnett, reportedly Scarlett's boyfriend these days, is neither loud nor obnoxious, based on our previous chats with him. Asked to describe Josh, her co-star in the very promising "The Black Dahlia" (Hilary Swank also stars in this upcoming Brian De Palma thriller-drama), Scarlett obliged with: "He's just lovely. He's very sensitive and thoughtful, a great all around guy—a good old Midwestern boy."

Michael, whom we interviewed right after Scarlett, took it good-naturedly when a writer apprised him of Scarlett's assessment of him and of Woody's "Michael who?" remark. Laughing, the director admitted, "I don't think Woody would see any of my movies. I love seeing his movies. But next time I see him, I am going to say, who are you?"

As for his obnoxious reputation, the director simply smiled and had a ready explanation as well: "I have a problem with being blunt. I am just very direct. Words come out of

SCARLETT/ A3-3

SCARLETT Johansson: Brigitte Bardot-ish



MICHAEL Bay: Boisterous

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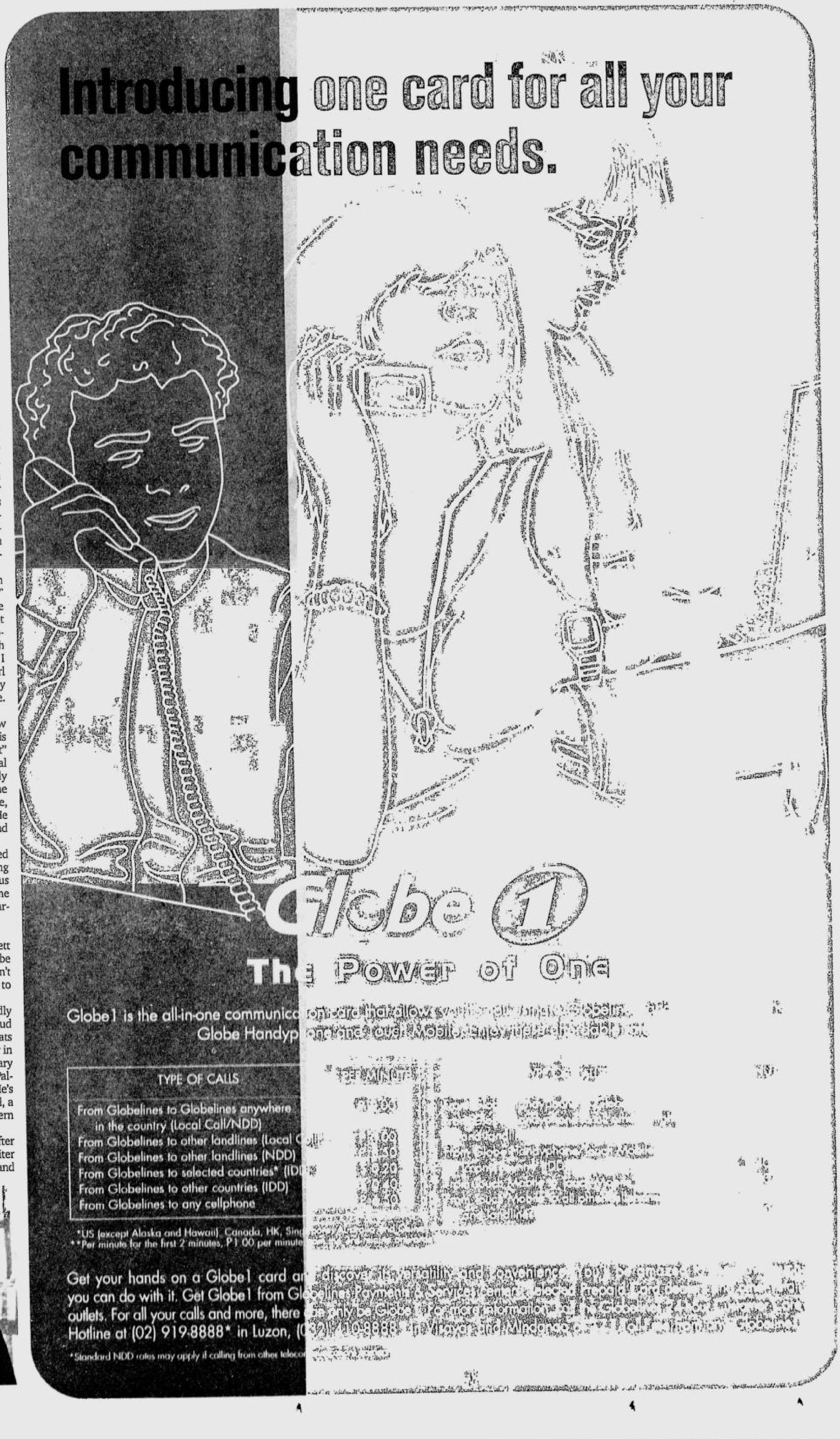

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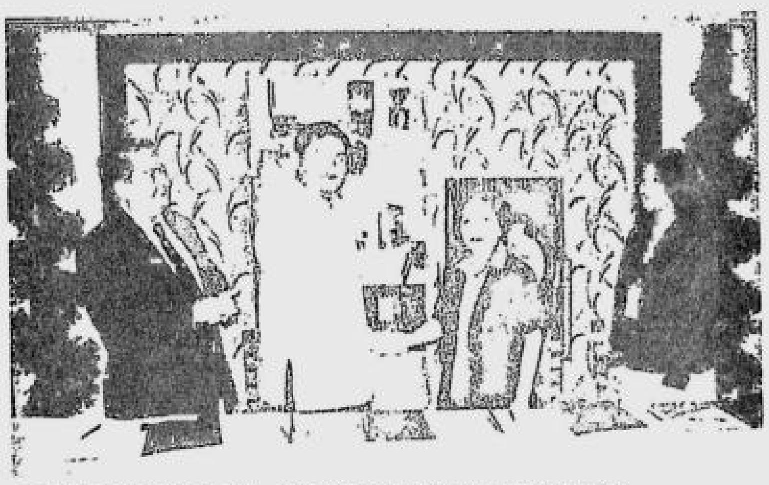
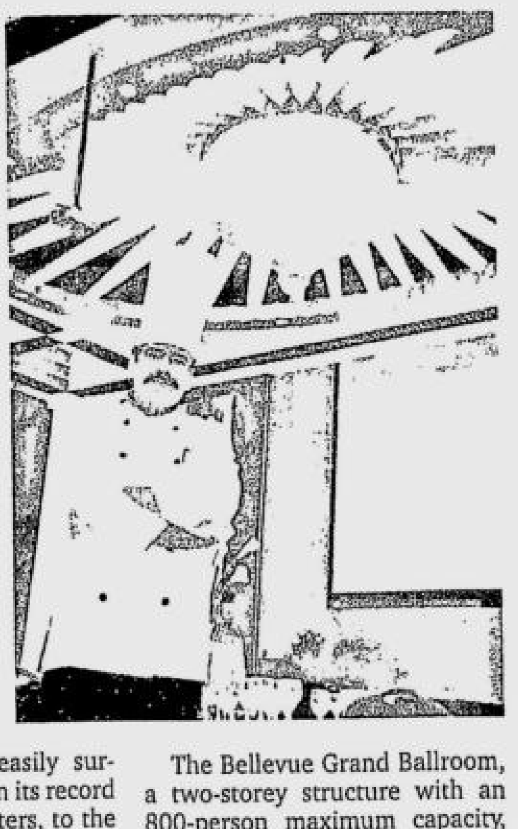


ASTORIA PLAZA, AIR PHILIPPINES TIE-UP
Astoria Plaza represented by hotel manager Ping Regalado and director for marketing communications Nel Ruiz enter into a marketing tie-up with Air Philippines executives led by VP-sales Erlinda Santiago and manager for product development Edna Lim-Patricio. Under the tie-up, passengers of Air Philippines get to enjoy exclusive perks and privileges when staying at Astoria Plaza.

Bountiful banquets at The Bellevue Grand Ballroom

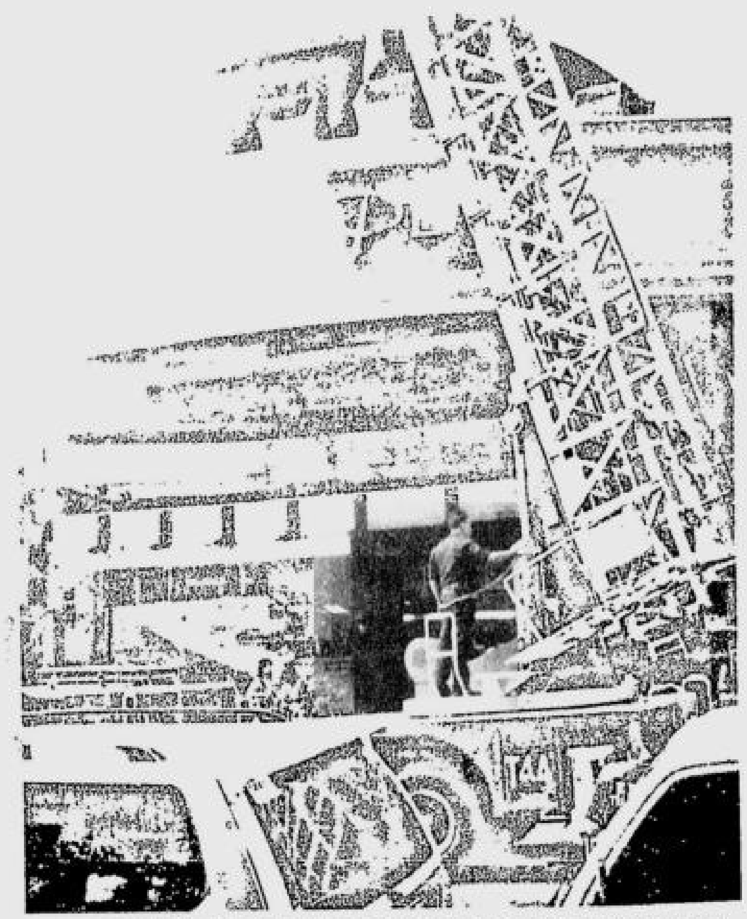


THE EMERGING concert venue and premier meeting place of southern Metro Manila cultivates the "Alabang culture" with events and services geared to satisfy the needs of southerners. The Bellevue Manila proudly welcomes guests to The Bellevue Grand Ballroom, a vision of sophistication, refinement and good taste built for the specific tastes of southern Metro Manila's finest.

Whether for weddings, conferences, debuts or kiddie parties, the Bellevue Grand Ballroom's banquet capabilities easily surpass conventions. From its record ceiling height of 8 meters, to the expertise of its executive chef Hans Peter Eckstein, the ballroom sets the ideal by carrying out the hotel's solid service-oriented philosophy.

"As proponents of the 'Alabang culture', The Bellevue develops its responsiveness to the sensibilities of the Alabang crowd. What we have created in The Bellevue Grand Ballroom is a quality venue where there is a great sense of community, a second home where precious memories are kept," Patrick Chan, The Bellevue Manila general manager said.

The Bellevue Grand Ballroom, a two-storey structure with an 800-person maximum capacity, features high-tech audio-visual equipment and state-of-the-art wireless technology. Its 8-meter ceiling height, a record elevation by Philippine standards, was made to give immediate visual impact without being intimidating or overpowering. Experts in hospitality design as well as acoustic, lighting and kitchen consultants worked together to fulfill the dream of Bellevue's visionaries. Hold fuss-free events in style and be part of this growing community. For inquiries, call 771-8181.



THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL HOLDS FIRE DRILL
To ensure the safety of its guests and property, The Executive Plaza Hotel in Mabini, Malate recently had a fire drill in coordination with the Intramuros Fire Department of Manila. Routine inspections were made on the facility of the Hotel and staff was given seminars and exercises on what to do in case of fire. Photo shows one of the scenes during the fire drill.

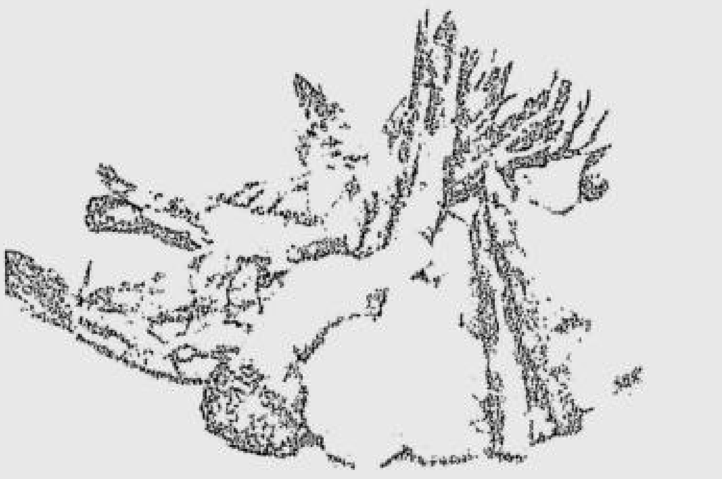
Prawns temptation

IN SPITE of cloudy skies, Manila Pavilion Hotel goes through great lengths to come up with a promotion that features sought after products of the sea.

Titled Prawns Temptation, this is Manila Pavilion's rainy season treat for seafood lovers and adventuresome gourmets. In its menu, prawns are present in every part of the meal. For appetizers, it has the Prawns Twister and Bloody Mary Prawn Cocktail; for soup, the Mushroom and Prawn Bisque; and for the main courses, the Prawns Thermidore, "A Day in Provence" Prawns, and the Prawns Paella.

The luxurious goodness of Prawns Temptation is available from July 25 to 30, at the Rotisserie during lunch from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

For reservations and inquiries, please call the Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2505.



Taal Vista Hotel unveils historical mural

THE NEW Taal Vista Hotel recently invited guests to witness the unveiling of a historical mural depicting images of the rich and intertwined histories of Tagaytay City, Taal Volcano and the Hotel in a collage artwork done in sepia shades of sepia and earth colors.

The 8-panel mural, with a combined size of 26 feet by 8 feet, was designed by artist Felix Mago Miguel using traditional and digital techniques. It features photographs, illustrations and texts that chronicle significant events starting from the first known eruption of Taal Volcano in 1572 up to the present time. Extensive research was done by Paolo Alcazaren who was requested to craft the mural's text.

The unveiling ceremony, capped by a lavish cocktail, was attended by Henry Sy Sr. accompanied by his wife, Felicidad Sy and other family members such as the elegant Elizabeth Sy (president of Taal Vista Hotel) and Henry Sy Jr.; Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano, former First Lady Amelita Ramos, former Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz Araneta, Fuego Hotels & Properties Mgmt. VP and COO Alfredo Roca, DOT Region-4 Director Louella Jurilla, former DOT Undersecretary Ramon Antonio, CCP president Nes Jardin, and representatives from the National Historical Institute, the National Museum and other known personalities from Tagaytay and Manila.

Taal Vista Hotel, recently rated as a first-class hotel by the Department of Tourism, is owned by the SM Investments Group and is managed by Fuego Hotels and Properties. For inquiries, please call the hotel at (046)413-1000 or (02) 886-4325 or their Manila Sales Office at (02) 751-3088 to 89 and (02) 751-8418 to 19. Please visit the websites at www.taalvistahotel.com and www.fuegohotels.com.

Scarlett Johansson . . .

From page A3-1

my mouth before I actually have time to think about them. I like to shoot fast; that's where my obnoxious quality comes out."

Mercifully, "The Island" has something extra aside from the loud, slam-bang action scenes characteristic of Michael Bay blockbusters. Before Michael outdoes himself in the noisy, spectacular chase sequence department, he starts promisingly with Scarlett and the always competent Ewan McGregor, essaying life in the not-too-distant future.

The two very good actors portray clones who escape from a facility and go out for the first time in the "real" world. I asked Michael about a scene that ended up on the cutting floor, but not for censorship issues.

He explained: "There was a scene ... I couldn't tell if it would work or not. There was dialogue in the script saying that their (Ewan's and Scarlett's characters Lincoln Six-Echo and Two-Delta, respectively) sexual urges were suppressed. They were fed libido suppressants in their food (at the cloning facility). So after the first night of their escape, he wakes up and to use French, he's got a hard-on. He looks down. She says, what's that (laughter)?"

An elusive bachelor who once bought an engagement ring but chickened out when it was time to propose marriage to a (now former) girlfriend, Michael said of dating Scarlett's colleagues: "I will not go out with an actress. Actresses are too neurotic (laughter)."

The topic inevitably led to the engagement of TomKat. Pressed by a reporter to comment, Michael said, "Whoa, guys. That is fascinating to watch. It's like 'Stepford Wives' (laughter). Honestly. There's something very scary (going on). Scientology is a lot more powerful than we know."

"The Island" is Michael's first film without Jerry Bruckheimer as producer (together, this duo raised millions of dollars at the box-office with hits, including the "Bad Boys" movies). Steven Spielberg reportedly lured Michael to do "The Island" under the former's DreamWorks studio by saying, "I want to be your new Jerry Bruckheimer."

LEA Salonga: True diva

JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

When I brought up that statement by Steven, Michael shared an anecdote: "I was lucky enough that when I was 15, I got a summer job at LucasFilms. My job was to file (Steven's) 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' storyboards. I said to my 15-year-old buddies that this movie was going to suck. But when I went to Graumann's Chinese (movie theater) to watch it, I was like, oh my God, I have to do this (filmmaking) because obviously, the movie didn't suck. I told Steven that story so that's public. He laughed."

Vince dates Jen

For his next movie, "The Break Up," which he is also producing, Vince Vaughn tapped Jennifer Aniston, as leading lady. Vince, star of the current hit comedy "Wedding Crashers," said this about Brad Pitt's soon to be ex Mrs.: "I always had Jennifer in mind when I was developing the movie because I thought she's very good at comedy in a way that's very grounded, very real. You're drawn to her. There's something genuine about her that you feel this warmth from her."

Was this a heartfelt expression by the "Wedding" Lothario and not just a sound bite? A few days after he said this in our press con with him, rumors came out that he and Jennifer were dating in real life. Both parties have since denied the alleged romance.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)

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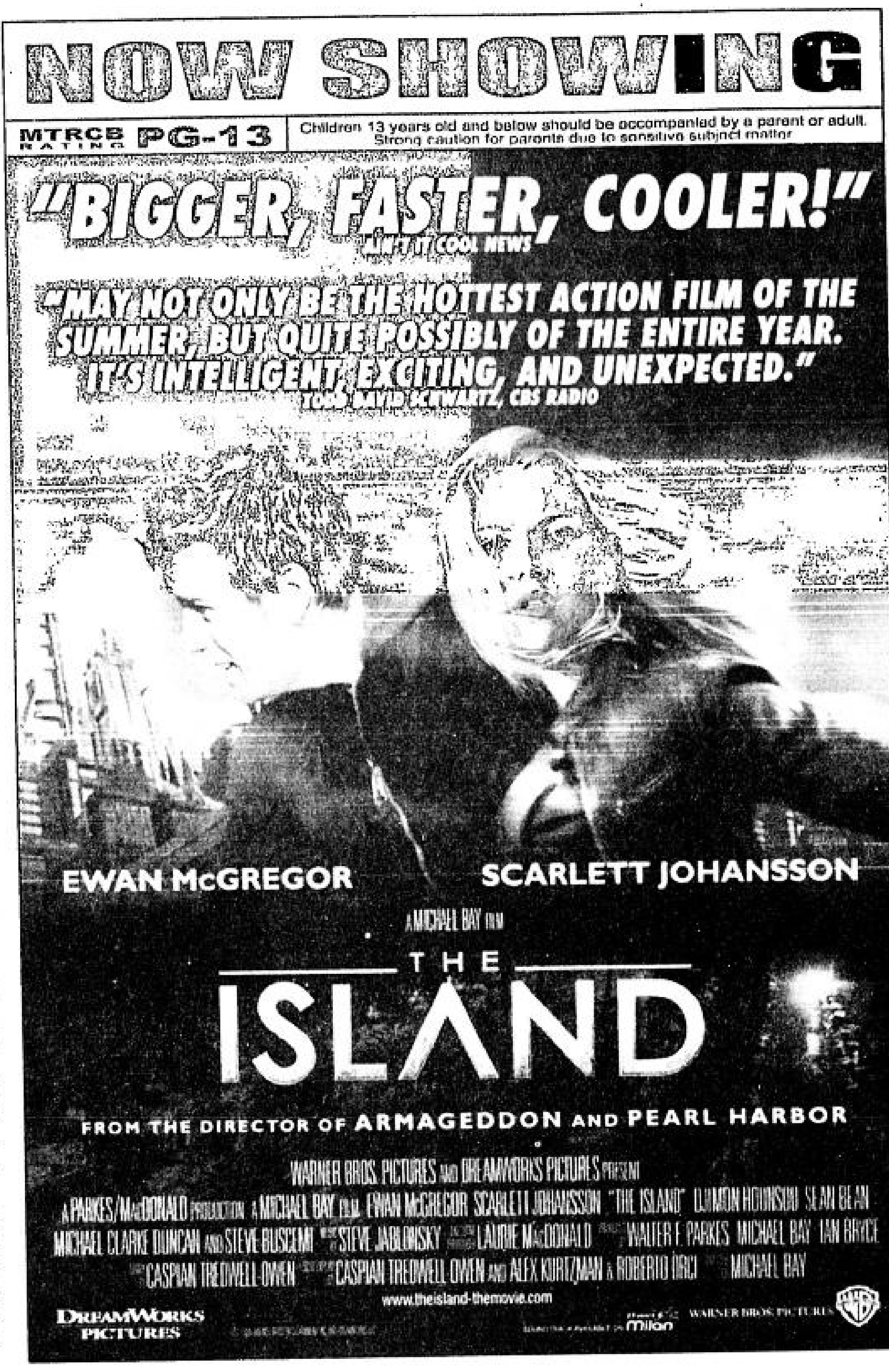
THE ISLAND PG13 12:20,3:10,6:00,8:50	STEALTH PG13 12:55,3:25,5:55,8:25	WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:35,3:05,5:35, 8:05,10:30
THE ISLAND PG13 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00	THE MACHINIST R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	STEALTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15



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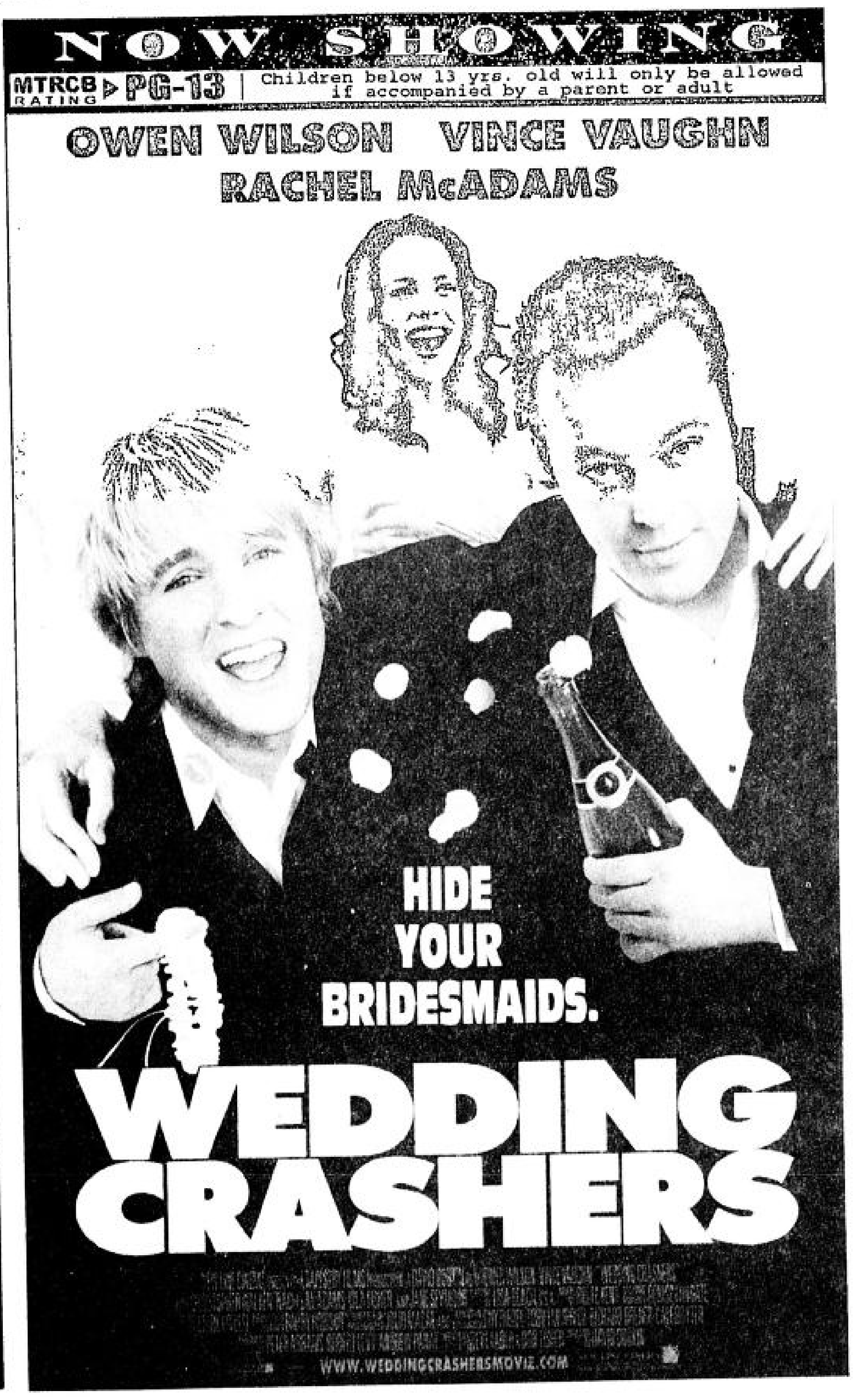

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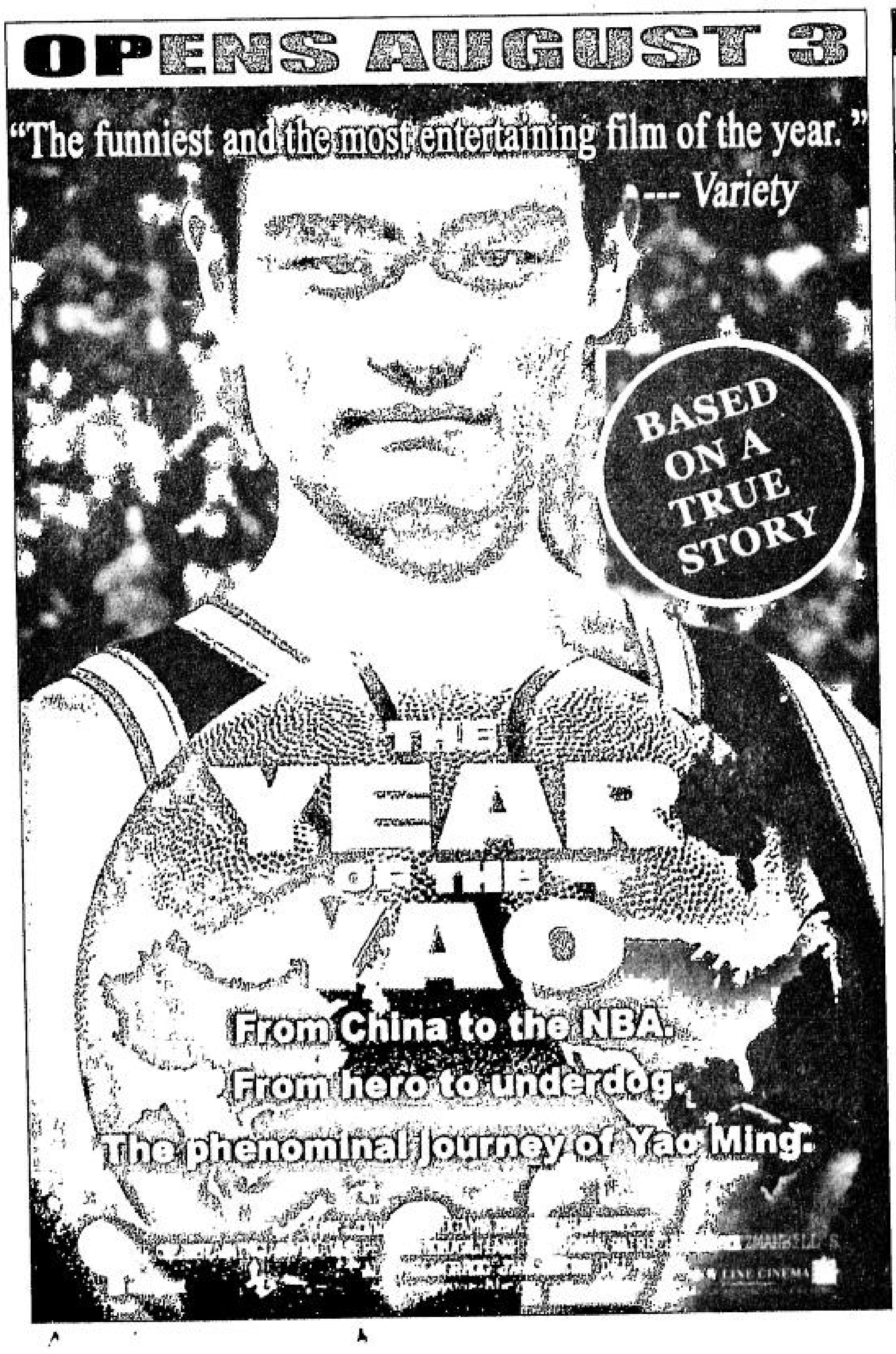

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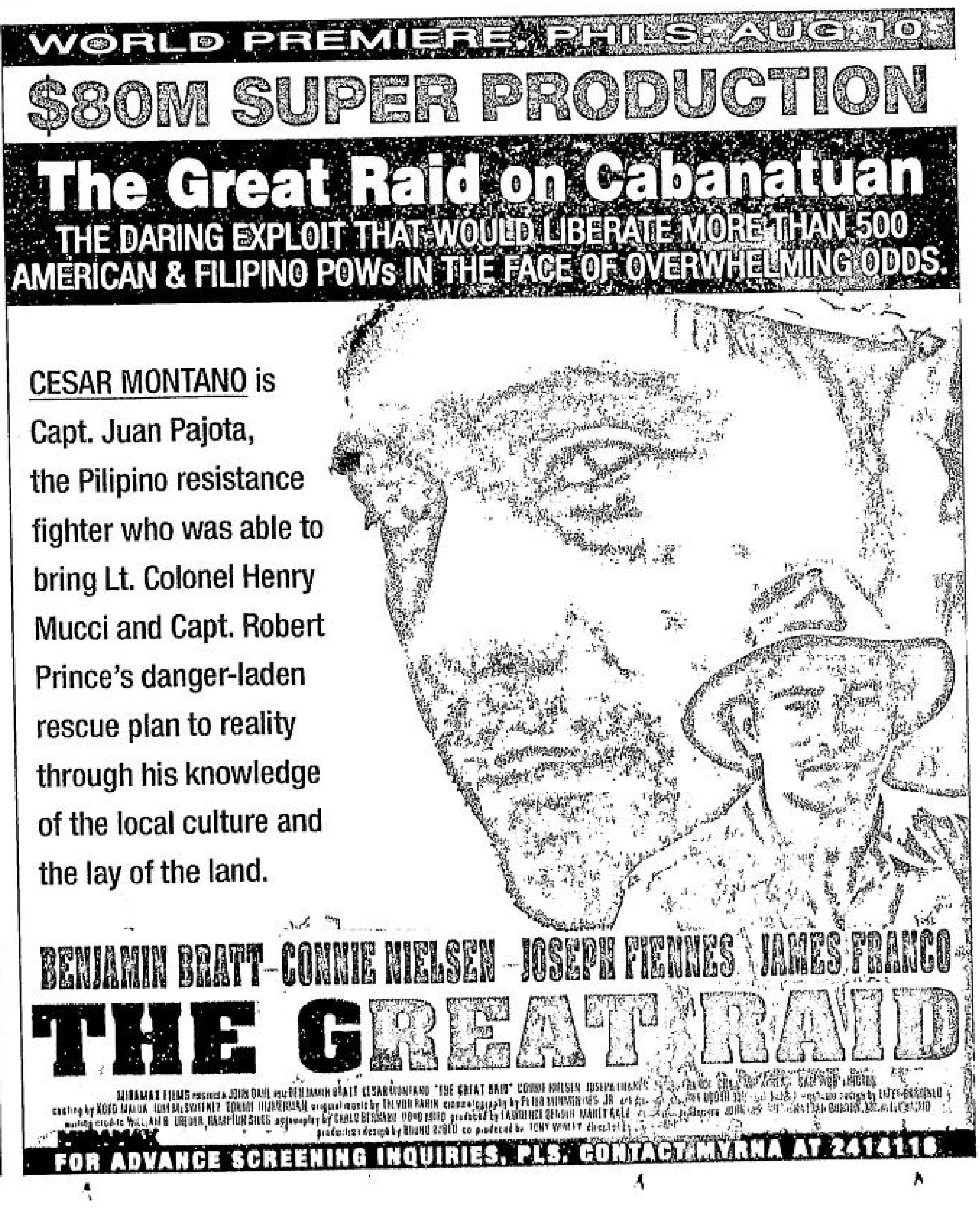

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BENJAMIN BRATT CONNIE NIELSEN JOSEPH FIENNES JAMES FRANCO
THE GREAT RAID
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Censors lift 'Ang Dating Daan' suspension

FLASH!

By Marinel R. Cruz

EVANGELIST Eli Soriano can now go back to hosting "Ang Dating Daan." The Board of Censors has lifted the indefinite suspension it imposed on Soriano in May for using "descriptions that are not in accordance with law, good customs (sic) and contemporary Filipino cultural values."

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board revoked the suspension order on July 26 after it found that Soriano's program had "faithfully" complied with the MTRCB rules and regulations, said censors chief Marissa Laguardia in a memorandum.

On May 12, the MTRCB prohibited "Ang Dating Daan" from being aired on TV for 30 days and Soriano's charismatic group from "directly or indirectly causing the production, broadcast or airing of its television programs or shows of similar nature or format."

Soriano hosts several TV and radio shows, the most popular of which is "Ang Dating Daan," where he takes questions from his audience and answers them by quoting biblical and doctrinal passages. Soriano's group has long been engaged in a word war with the religious congregation Iglesia Ni Cristo.

The suspension was prompted by a complaint filed in April in which the INC protested Soriano's continued use of the term "Iglesia ni Manalo" to refer to "Iglesia ni Cristo." The MTRCB said this was a violation of Presidential Decree 1989.

On April 14, the board issued a warning to Soriano which, Laguardia said, he ignored.

This prompted the Board to issue another order (dated May 7) suspending Soriano's TV program from being aired for 30 days. Rather than complying, Soriano's group continued to broadcast their TV program, Laguardia said.

On May 12, Soriano's program was suspended indefinitely.

Soriano filed a protest before the Commission on Human Rights and the Court of Appeals, claiming that the MTRCB violated his constitutional right to free religion, speech and expression. Then he filed a motion for reconsideration before the MTRCB on June 2, which led to the lifting of the indefinite suspension.

Jeffrey special

SHOW TIME

JEFFREY Hidalgo celebrates the release of his new single, "Someone Out There," with a special show dubbed "Jeffrey 05" at the Metro Comedy Concert Bar (formerly Kampo) on West Avenue, Q.C. Thursday, August 4.

"Jeffrey 05" is also the title of his fifth album, released under Universal Records.

Joining Jeffrey in the very special show will be "Miss Saigon" alumnus Jenine Desiderio, his younger sister Arnee Hidalgo, sexy actress-turned-singer Aleck Bovick, Myx VJ Iya Villania; and Jeffrey's Smokey Mountain batch mate Geneva Cruz.

Call 633-98-25.

Celeb hangout

Elbow Room restobar, the latest celebrity hangout, has moved from Podium Mall to a bigger location on the second floor of Metrowalk.

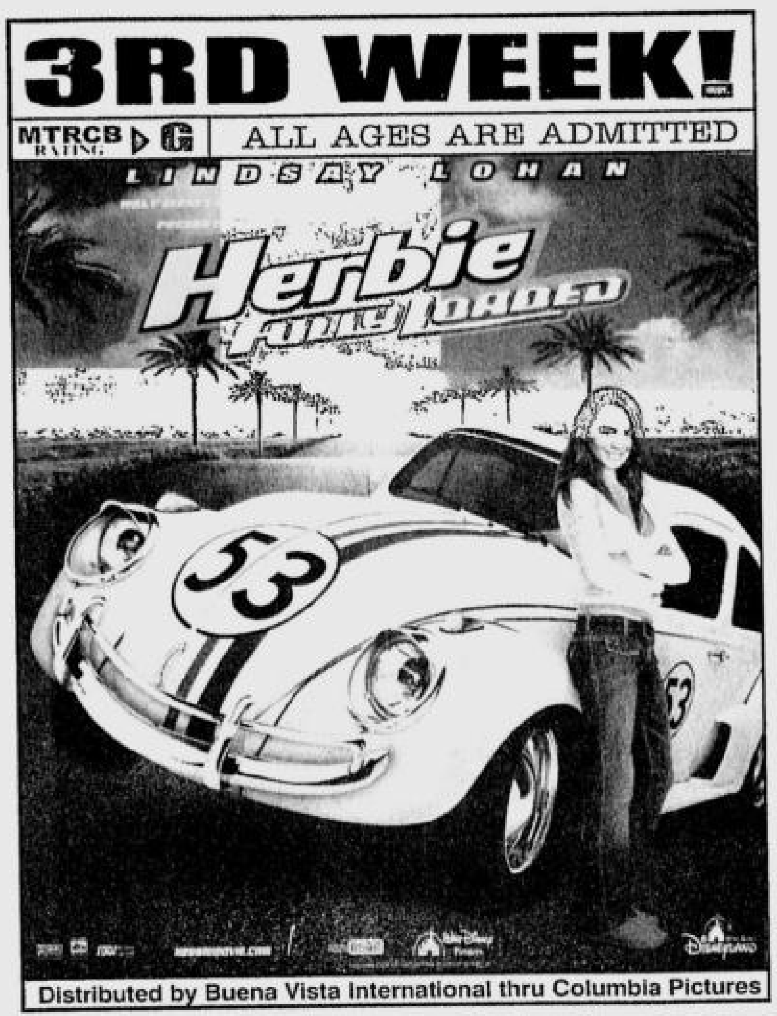
It now has four function rooms with individual videoke and billiard tables.

A grand inauguration set in early August will be graced by top movie and TV personalities.

A "Celebrity Open Billiard Tournament" will soon be held as part of the launch.

Call 634-1404 or 635-2881.

JEFFREY Hidalgo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3 (DOLBY)	HERBIE FULLY LOADED GP
4 (DOLBY)	THE ISLAND PG13
PREMIERE	
(DOLBY)	STEALTH PG13

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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1	THE ISLAND
2	D' ANOTHERS
3	FANTASTIC FOUR
4	WEDDING CRASHERS

Universal
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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	STEALTH
5	D' ANOTHERS

METROPOLIS star
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(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1	SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
2	D' ANOTHERS
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	STEALTH
6	THE ISLAND

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY)	
2	RESERVED

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(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	STEALTH
2 (SDDS)	HERBIE FULLY LOADED
3 (DTS)	WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	WEDDING CRASHERS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC FOUR
6 GOLD (SDDS)	STEALTH
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE ISLAND
8	D' ANOTHERS
9	IF ONLY
10	EVIL DEAD

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY)	THE ISLAND
3 (DOLBY)	STEALTH
4 (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC FOUR

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1 (DOLBY)	SOON TO OPEN
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN
5	SOON TO OPEN

MARKETPLACE
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1	D' ANOTHERS
2	THE ISLAND
3	RESERVED
4	EVIL DEAD

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2	D' ANOTHERS
3	STEALTH

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2	D' ANOTHERS
3 (DTS EX)	THE ISLAND
4	MONSTER IN LAW

Cine Nepo
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1	D' ANOTHER
2	MONSTER IN LAW
3 (DOLBY)	STEALTH
4 (DTS)	THE ISLAND

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	D' ANOTHER
2	CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY)	NEW POLICE STORY
4 (DTS)	FANTASTIC FOUR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	FANTASTIC FOUR
2	D' ANOTHERS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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2 (DOLBY)	STEALTH
3 (DOLBY)	WEDDING CRASHERS
4 (DOLBY)	D' ANOTHERS

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS)	CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY)	THE ISLAND
4	STEALTH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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1	D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY)	STEALTH
3 (DTS)	THE ISLAND
4	CAMPUS GHOST STORY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FANTASTIC FOUR
2	D' ANOTHERS
3 (DOLBY)	NEW POLICE STORY

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	D' ANOTHERS
2	CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY)	NEW POLICE STORY
4 (DTS)	HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	THE ISLAND
2	D' ANOTHERS
3 (DOLBY)	HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	FANTASTIC FOUR
2	SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3	HIBLA
4 (DTS)	RING OF NIBELUNGS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	STEALTH
2	CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DTS)	THE ISLAND
4	SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
5	D' ANOTHERS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	D' ANOTHERS
2	NEW POLICE STORY
3	HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4	THE ISLAND

Berma Cinema
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1	SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
2	WEDDING CRASHER

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WEDDING CRASHERS
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
IF ONLY
1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
D' ANOTHERS
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
THE MACHINIST
1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 : Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
STEALTH
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
THE ISLAND
12:30 / 9:00
FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① D' ANOTHERS
11:25 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25
② STEALTH
11:45 / 2:35 / 5:25 / 8:15
③ FANTASTIC FOUR
11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:50
④ THE ISLAND
12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
⑤ WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 30 ADMU vs UP Jrs 10am UE vs Adu Jrs 12nn
ADMU vs UP Srs 2pm UE vs Adu Srs 4pm
MTV PILIPINAS 2005
August 25, Thursday 8 pm
UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES
August 13, Saturday
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

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BUSINESS

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Napocor bleeding may ease

By Abigail L. Ho

LOSSES of the state-run National Power Corp. are expected to be lower than last year's P29.9 billion as its rate hike, internal cost-cutting measures and the decrease in use of oil-based power plants continue to pay off this year.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla yesterday said in an interview that Napocor's net loss this year would be significantly lower than the P117 billion posted in 2003, and even lower than the almost P30 billion registered last year.

"With the measures being taken, definitely Napocor will continue to improve its finances," Lotilla said.

Once the state firm's target to reduce the use of diesel-fired power plants this year to 15 percent from 11 percent is realized, Napocor's net loss

NAPOCOR/ B6

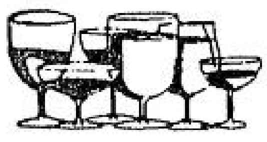
WHAT'S INSIDE

BPI drops plan to bid for PNB /B2

Imprudent math /B5

Economy seen to hit lower end of growth target /B6

Get tax cases moving, BIR told /B9



Chowking eyes India, Mideast

Jollibee subsidiary also considering Indon expansion

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CHOWKING Food Corp., the leading Oriental quick-service restaurant chain in the country, is venturing into the thickly populated markets of India, as well as other parts of Indonesia and the Middle East, hoping to expand its total stores overseas to 17 by the end of 2005.

Currently, it operates 13 stores overseas and 313 stores nationwide.

Chowking has two stores in Indonesia, three stores in Dubai, and eight in the United States.

Eduardo Paredes, Chowking head for international business development, yesterday said that Chowking is studying opportunities in either New Delhi or Mumbai, aiming to open a store in India next year.

"[India] is an exciting market," Paredes said during the Good News Kapihan forum at the Global Café in Makati yesterday. "They like Chinese food. We will seek Indian customers and delight them with our products."

MORE TO COME

Chowking promises more branches to open in Indonesia this year, like this 120-seat store in Jakarta's largest mall.

He said what has lured the Jollibee Group to India is its bustling economic activity that has been depicted by brisk mall expansion and urban development.

New Delhi, the Indian capital, has 20 million residents. Mumbai (formerly Bombay) has over 15 million people.

Chowking is also looking at the market in the United Arab Emirates where it has two stores in Dubai.

It has opened one store in Sharjah last June. Two more will be opened this year.

"We want to pursue brand network growth in the UAE because the economy there is hot in terms of tourism," Paredes said.

In Indonesia, PT Chowking International's first 120-seat store opened in Jakarta's largest mall, Millenium Mal Artha Gading.

It has opened its second store at Mal Ambassador last week and will open its third at Mal Ciputra in August.

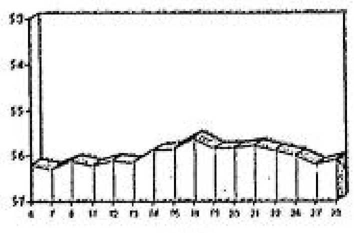
Chowking is also studying opening another store in Indonesia later this year.

Chowking however has held off any aggressive expansion plans in the United States, but said it will continue to seek out US customers.

Last year, Chowking's stores in the country generated about P7.8 billion in sales. This year, it expects to grow sales to P8.2 billion.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.085 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 28, 2005

¥ 112.70 = $ 1

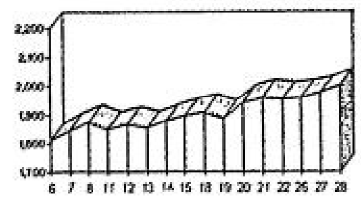
As of 3 p.m., July 27, 2005

GOLD: $422.50-423.00

per ounce Hong Kong, July 27, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 1.28% higher

SHARE prices yesterday closed 1.28 percent higher, extending gains on expectations that more companies could report strong earnings for the second quarter, dealers said.

They said an easing of political tensions stemming from opposition charges that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated to win the May 2004 elections, also helped the market rise for a third day in a row.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite

SHARES/ B9

Balanced budget seen to be within RP's reach

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ENCOURAGING fiscal performance of the country this year has given the Arroyo administration new hope that it would be able to wipe clean the gaping budget deficit as early as 2007.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said the administration's new economic team has changed the official target of balancing the budget from the previous 2010 to 2008.

And, should the Supreme Court lift the suspension of the Expanded Value Added Tax law, a a zero-budget deficit would be even possible by 2007, Teves added.

The Department of Finance attributed the change in projection to improved revenue collection, which allowed the government to surpass its fiscal target for the first half of the year.

The higher revenues were due to the administrative measures, like the stepped up campaign against tax evasion, the DOF said.

The agency earlier reported that in the first half, the deficit only stood at P67.5 billion, or P31 billion lower than the target of P98.5 billion. It noted that the better-than-programmed fiscal performance was achieved despite the absence of the VAT law.

But Teves was quick to add that the economic team was still strongly push-

BALANCED/ B6

BSP policy rates steady

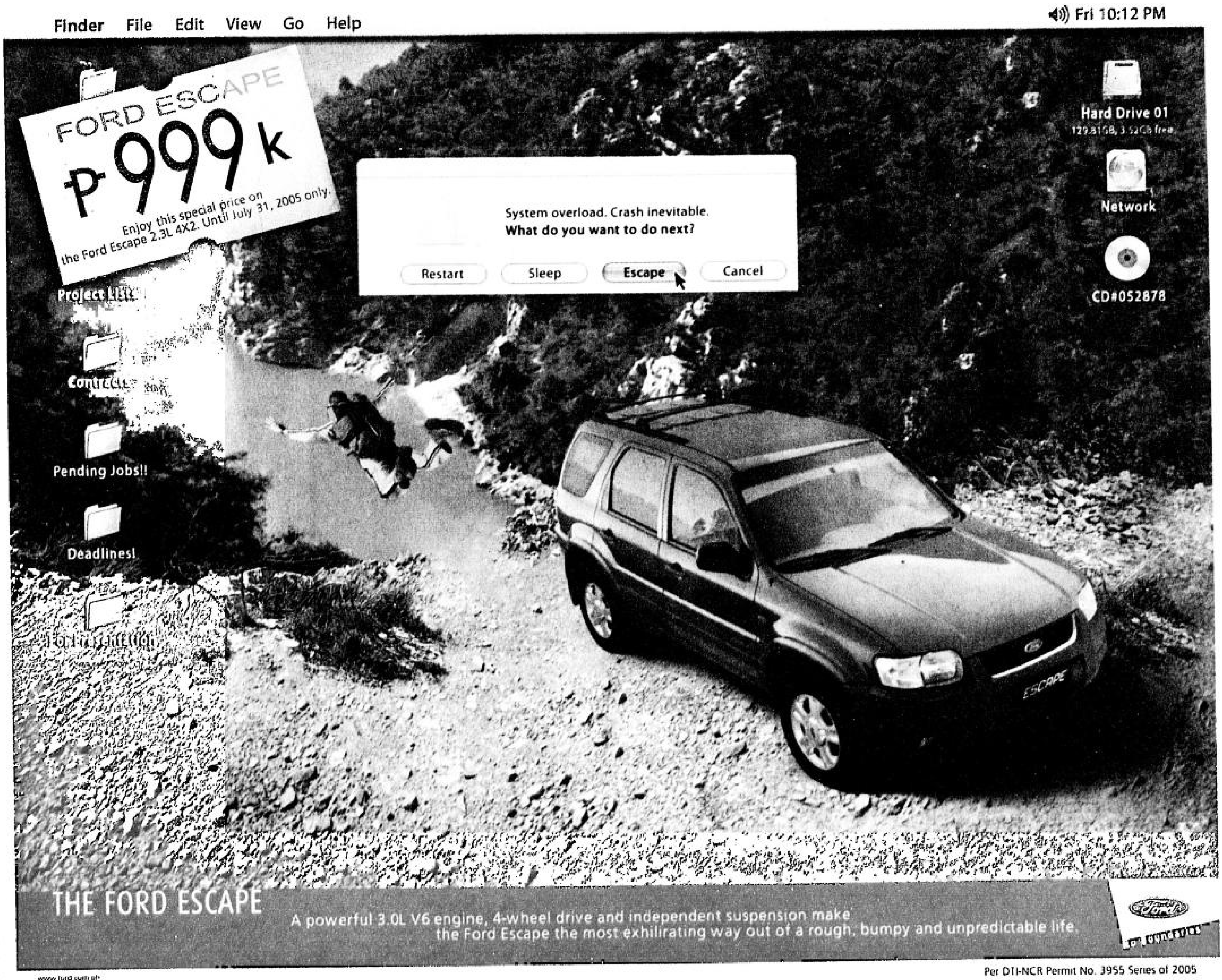
THE MONETARY Board yesterday kept the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' overnight policy rates steady even as the peso weakened against the US dollar in the aftermath of a yuan revaluation.

The BSP's policy-making body also believed that the 2 percentage hike in the reserve requirement slapped on banks early this month would, for now, be sufficient to curb the excess financial liquidity seen to exert pressures on inflation and the foreign exchange rates.

Thus, the BSP has kept its overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate at 7 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9.25 percent. These rates were last adjusted upwards by 25 basis points last April as a "preemptive move" against rising inflation.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the board decided to keep the rates unchanged because inflationary pressures were still coming from the supply side which was be-

BSP/ B6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BPI drops plan to bid for PNB

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands is no longer interested in bidding for a controlling stake in the Philippine National Bank as it has signed a P6.13-billion deal to take over Prudential Bank.

BPI president Aurelio Montinola III said that although BPI had submitted a letter of intent and was prequalified to join the Aug. 12 bidding for the 67-percent stake in PNB, it has to concentrate first on consolidating Prudential Bank into BPI.

"It's going to take us a while to digest Prudential, so we tend to focus on one acquisition at a time," Montinola said in a briefing Wednesday night after the signing of the purchase agreement with the Santos family on Prudential Bank.

Montinola said the acquisition would be completed next month after the tender offer to acquire up to 100 percent of the bank.

The Santos family owns at least 80 percent of Prudential Bank, which is also listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

BPI will offer to buy the rest of the shares next week at P746.44 a share.

"We've always stated that we have the option of pursuing organic growth and acquisition. This year, we're doing a little bit of both in moderate amounts," Montinola said.

The acquisition of Prudential Bank is not yet enough to topple Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. as the country's biggest bank, but it will narrow the gap in terms of total resources to about P23 billion.

Although an acquisition of PNB could make BPI the country's biggest bank, Montinola said the bank would no longer bid as it would focus more on increasing its return on equity, rather than its size.

He said BPI was drawn to Prudential Bank by the latter's customer base and good branch network.

Prudential Bank, the 18th biggest among commercial banks, has a loan portfolio of P12.8 billion and a deposit base of P43 billion. It has 187 branches, 91 of which are in the National Capital Region and 95 in the provinces.

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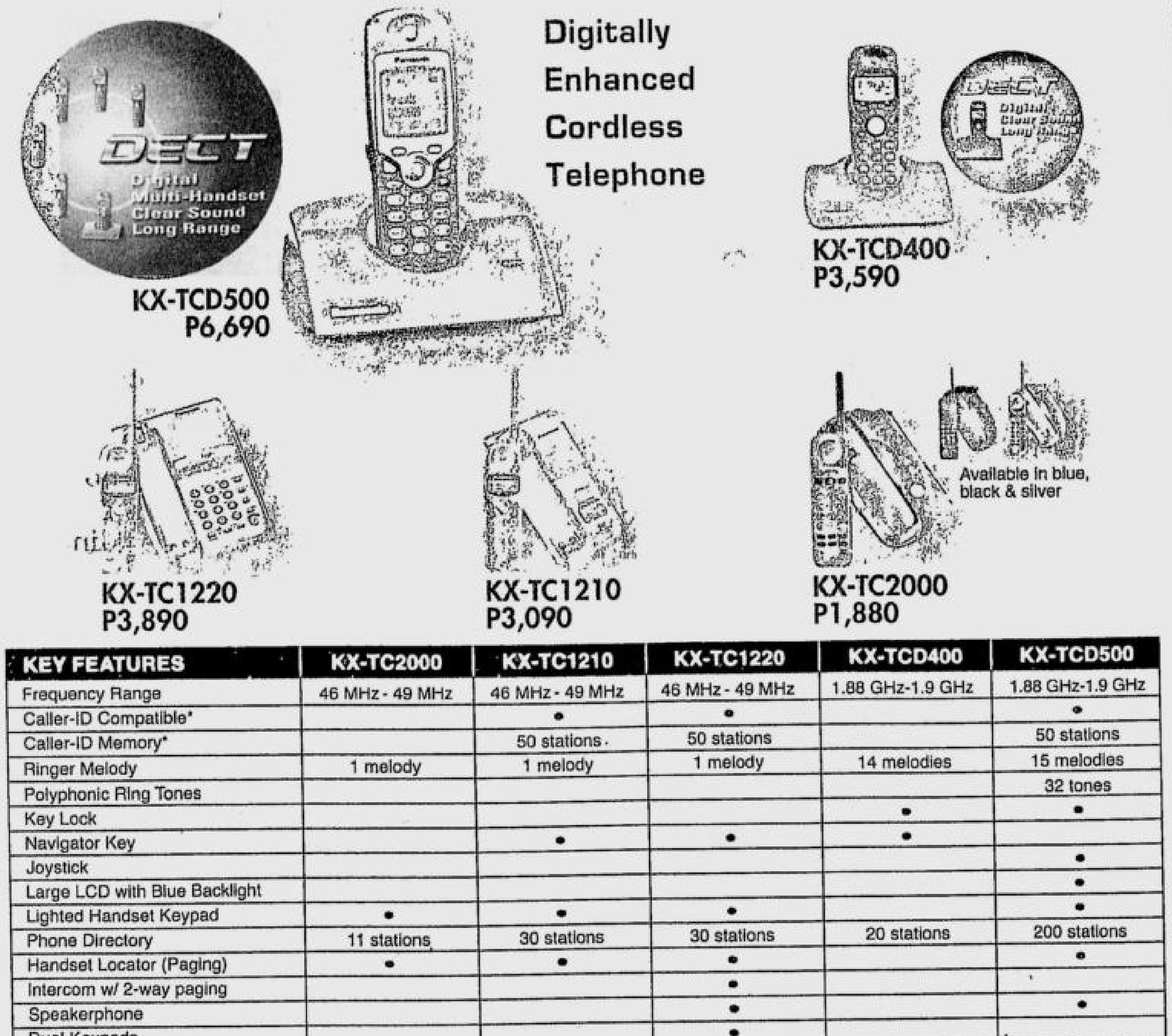
(As of July 28, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	29	29	726,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50.5	50	50.5	896,400
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	140,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	50	48.5	48.5	424,700
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	94,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	1,403,100
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	80	80	80	80	40,900
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	46.5	47.5	58,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	13	12.5	12.75	49,000
Security Bank Corp.	28	29.5	28	29.5	5,251,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	30	29.5	30	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2800	2810	2800	2810	340
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	410,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	140	140	140	140	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1995	2000	1995	2000	7,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.75	13.25	69,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	3,880,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	815	825	810	820	34,280
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	45,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	4,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2	2	2	2	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.8	2,966,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1610	1620	1595	1605	532,630
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,300,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	15	14.5	14.5	177,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	25	24.25	24.5	1,084,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	2,551,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	5,776,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	126,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8.1	8	8	636,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	15,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.25	670,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	31	11,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	271,600
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	68	69	68	69	209,300
San Miguel Corp. B	100	100	100	100	9,800
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	30,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	3,000
Ayala Corp.	327.5	335	327.5	332.5	131,380
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	90,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	6,326,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.023	0.023	15,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.94	80,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.25	1,080,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	85,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.75	2,090,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.14	1.06	1.12	44,847,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.19	650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.25	3,170,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.75	9,125,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7	7	6.8	6.9	1,165,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46	46.5	45.5	46	882,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	500,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	60,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	2,979,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	6,558,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	35,780,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	520,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	400,000
SM Investments Corp.	221	222	220	220	260,140
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	200,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.18	4,100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.125	0.125	990,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1	1	1	1	7,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	1	0.96	0.98	11,540,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.36	3,739,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	80,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	12.75	13.25	12.75	13	707,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.4	7,808,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	570,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.205	1,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	6,590,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	3,330,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	640,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	180,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	45,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	5,245,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.18	1,858,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.2	1.24	1.14	1.18	720,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	60,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5	5.1	4.95	4.95	287,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.5	13,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,050,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	2,060,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	46,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	37,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.81	760,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.91	0.94	0.91	0.92	1,790,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29.5	29	29	156,700
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.35	3.75	3.35	3.75	638,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.145	17,530,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000

CURRENCIES

July 28, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.828226	1.000000	56.1470
Japan	Yen	0.007373	0.008902	0.4998
United Kingdom	Pound	1.445503	1.745300	97.9934
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106480	0.128564	7.2185
Switzerland	Franc	0.639853	0.772559	43.3769
Canada	Dollar	0.669978	0.808931	45.4190
Singapore	Dollar	0.497911	0.601178	33.7543
Australia	Dollar	0.625312	0.755002	42.3911
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.197003	2.652661	148.9390
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220848	0.266652	14.9717
Brunei	Dollar	0.496420	0.599377	33.6532
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019867	0.023987	1.3468
UAE	Dirham	0.225527	0.272301	15.2889
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.207400	67.7919
Argentina	Peso	0.289589	0.349650	19.6318
Brazil	Real	0.337914	0.407997	22.9078
Denmark	Kroner	0.134009	0.161802	9.0847
India	Rupee	0.019110	0.023073	1.2955
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220831	0.266631	14.9705
Mexico	New Peso	0.077727	0.093848	5.2693
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562616	0.679302	38.1408
Norway	Kroner	0.126006	0.152140	8.5422
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013892	0.016773	0.9418
South Africa	Rand	0.125147	0.151103	8.4840
Korea	Won	0.000803	0.000970	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.105675	0.127592	7.1639
Syria	Pound	0.015955	0.019264	1.0816
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025963	0.031348	1.7601
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000386	0.000466	0.0262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Osorio to head PSALM

By Abigail L. Ho

FINANCE Undersecretary Nieves Osorio has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

She takes over the post vacated about four months ago by Raphael Lotilla, who was appointed secretary of the Department of Energy.

Prior to taking over the helm of the privatization body, Osorio has been handling the DOF's corporate affairs group and the policy and development management services group since 2001.

She was also a director in the boards of the National Power Corp., National Transmission Corp. (Transco) and PSALM as an alternate of the finance secretary.

OSORIO

PRULINK **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 26, 2005	Last Week July 19, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.26461	1.26005
Managed Fund - Peso	1.36738	1.35578
Growth Fund - Peso	1.02030	1.00000
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1137	1.1166

* Note. These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE **UNIT PRICES (In Php)**

Investment Funds of **Wealth Builder**	July 25, 2005	July 18, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.040436	1.038171
Balanced Fund	1.026331	1.022903
Equity Fund	0.993821	0.987635

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

KING JAMES AUCTION

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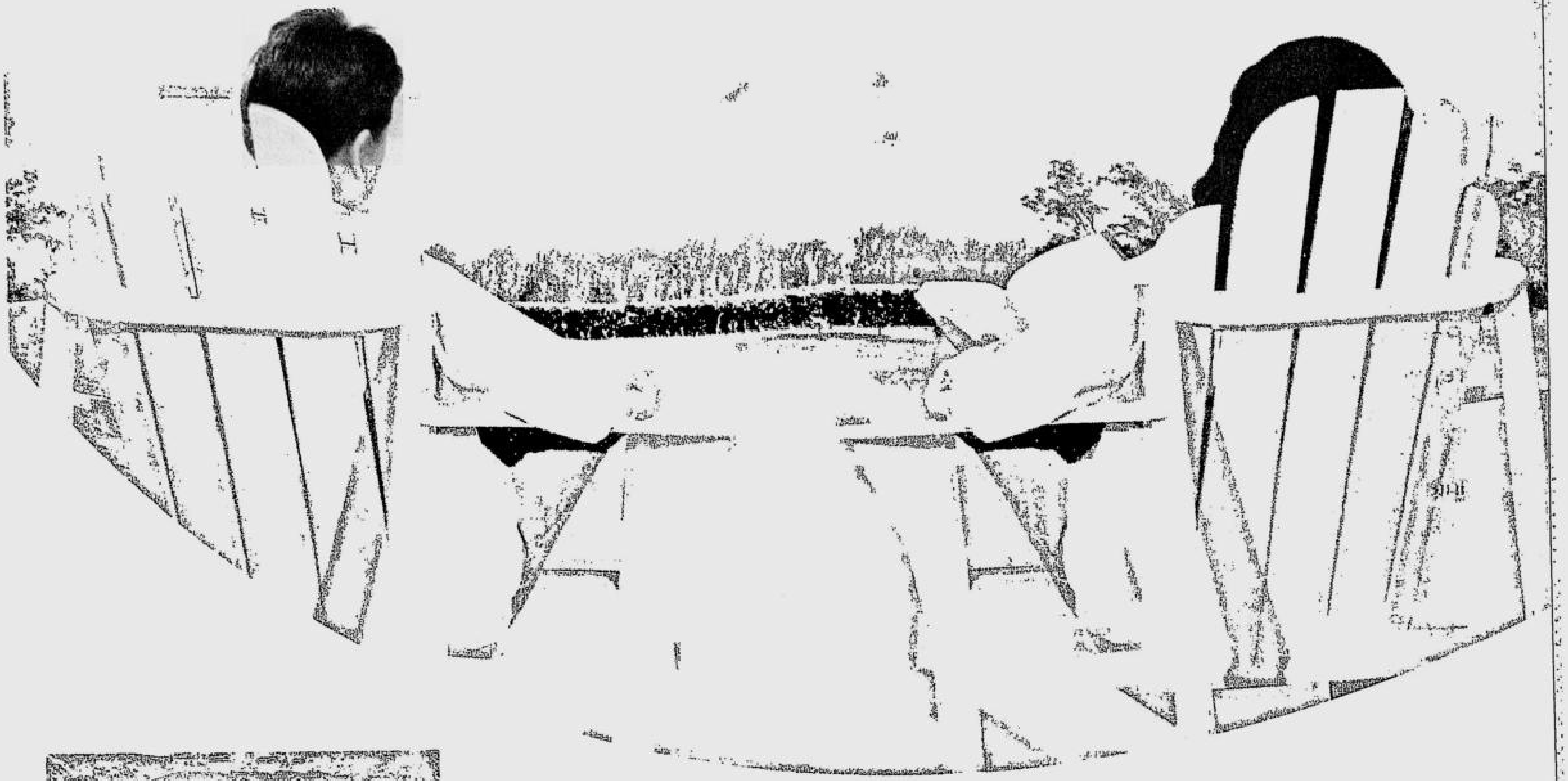

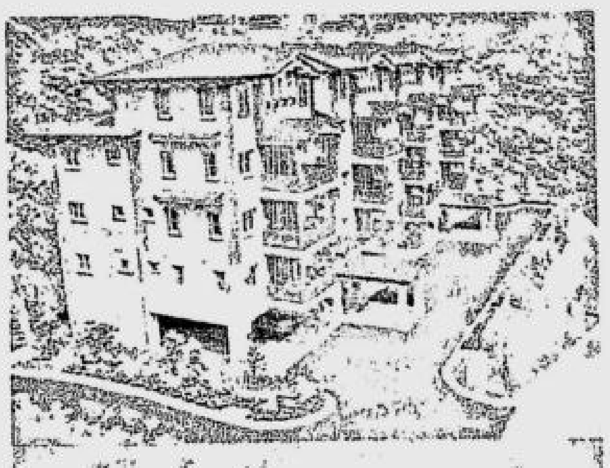

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- Elegant stone and timber architectural design
- Cool year-round climate and panoramic view of Tagaytay Highlands, Laguna de Bay and surrounding mountains

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HORIZON
at Tagaytay Midlands

- A golfers' haven terraced on gently sloping terrain at Tagaytay Midlands
- Japanese minimalist architectural design
- Magnificent view of Tagaytay Midlands golf course and Taal Lake and Volcano

The Woodridge Park
Tagaytay Highlands

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RP needs full-time special trade representative

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

THE NATIONALIST Development Agenda of the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), headed by former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, says this about globalization: "The point is that globalization is war. Trade is war. And like in any war, those who win are those with a coherent program of readiness with a clear strategy on how to wage the trade battles, and whose army is united, armed and fully trained and oriented to win the war."

Background

Empirical studies show that in the period of globalization and rapid industrialization, developed countries are winning and developing countries are losing. There are a few exceptions. In Southeast Asia, Malaysia and Thailand have been winning, while Indonesia and the Philippines have been losing. This is especially true in agriculture, where losing countries like ours have been agreeing to too rapid liberalization. For us, there is a triple whammy.

Firstly, we are competing with products that have large unfair subsidies, many of which are coming in through smuggling.

Secondly, we have engaged in "unilateral disarmament." Even though we were still weak and not ready for severe competition from cheap subsidized imports, we decreased our tariffs on our own without adequate consultation with our affected sectors.

Thirdly, our government has not yet provided us the adequate competitiveness enhancement measures and safety nets that are necessary to compete globally with liberalization.

Many say we are losing the war because we do not have a full time general to lead us in this area. Because of this, our trade policy lacks three important elements necessary for victory: focus, comprehensiveness and teamwork.

Focus

The United States is now enjoying one of the longest periods of sustained economic growth in its history. Much of this is attributed to its skilful positioning and management in the global trade arena. A key factor contributing to this success is the Special Trade Representative.

Though there is a Department of Agriculture and a Department of Commerce in the US, their trade strategies are coordinated by the STR, who is with the Office of the President and reports directly to him. The STR is completely focused on trade, which is a key "weapon" to achieve the country's economic growth.

In the Philippines, the Cabinet level person in charge of international trade is the trade secretary. Since I, myself, was a trade undersecretary for 14 years and would occasionally serve as DTI officer in charge, when the secretary was out, I saw the wide range of areas the trade secretary had to supervise. Because of this, there was no way he could focus on international trade in the same way that the US STR could.

Since our current economic difficulties are caused to a large extent by our agreeing to too rapid liberalization, we need no less than a full-time Cabinet level official to focus completely on international trade.

This is especially important now. Many powerful countries are seeking bilateral agreements with us when they cannot get concessions from us in multilateral organizations like the World Trade Organizations (WTO).

Comprehensiveness

Our lead person in international trade should be comprehensive in his or her outlook. Unfortunately, the trade secretary is perceived to be more knowledgeable in and more partial to industry as compared to agriculture.

In July last year, the Kilusang Mangingisda leaders held a rally in front of the DTI building to protest what they perceived to be a betrayal of the fisherfolk. This was because the DTI did not object to the imposition of an average 20 percent bound tariff rate on fisheries products.

The leaders said the DTI staff confessed they did not know the fishery issues, but were required to participate in these negotiations because the DTI was the lead negotiator.

This suggests that a person leading our international trade should fight for industry and agriculture with the same comprehensiveness and intensity.

Teamwork

The private sector complains that there is a lack of teamwork between them and the government in international trade negotiations.

The Department of Agriculture has a mechanism that promotes teamwork, accountability and transparency, which is Task Force WAAR (WTO Agreement on Agriculture Renegotiation). The Alyansa Agrikultura had asked the DA to establish a similar mechanism for bilateral agreements.

An industry leader, at the FTA conference last week, said he wished the DTI would do the same for industry. A full-time STR would ensure the establishment of such arrangements.

Conclusion

In today's globalization environment, trade should be a win-win situation. But when it turns into a war, the Philippines is often identified as a loser.

We must reverse this trend. It is recommended that the President immediately appoint a full time Senior Trade Representative who will ensure focus, comprehensiveness and teamwork in the formulation and conduct of our trade policy. Only then can we hope to be winners in this promising, but often dangerous, global economic engagement. *E-mail agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax 8516635*

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Imprudent math

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BID high, sell low seems to be the disposal strategy of the Santos clan in agreeing to sell their Prudential Bank to the Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands.

According to the horse's mouth, the Yuchengcos of RCBC and the Sys of Banco de Oro each submitted offers in the P900/share vicinity, but in the end the Santoses settled for BPI's P746.4374/share bid.

The BPI offer, according to the grapevine, is just right on the book-value mark, but nearly double the average P400/share that the Prudential stock had been trading in the stock exchange in the first quarter.

In any case, the BPI valuation could always be counterchecked with Prudential independent director Delfin Lazaro, who happens to be the Ayala Corp. treasurer/chief financial officer, as well as a director of the Yuchengcos' Mapua Institute of Technology.

BPI said it had already secured 73.81 percent approval from Prudential shareholders, presumably including the 12-percent plus stake of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, who also happens to be an Ayala Corp. partner.

BPI is giving the rest of the Prudential shareholders until Aug. 26 to obtain a minimum of 80 percent shareholder approval, otherwise the deal is off.

If the grapevine is to be believed, Prudential chair/president Jose L. Santos, with his 4.85-percent block, is still holding out of the BPI deal, and is still hoping for BDO to come back and submit a counter-offer closer to Santos' asking price of P1,050/share.

Two months earlier, when Prudential was already in the block, Santos himself acquired another 322 bank shares at P350 each.

But his nephew and fellow director, Augusto S. Estrada, was a more aggressive and more recent buyer, cornering 42,176 shares at P350 each on June 30.

That means Estrada more than doubled his money in just one month.

Lucky guy.

Philippine paid press

COCKTALES doffs his hat to his Newsbreak/PCIJ colleagues for adroitly skirting the constitutional ban on foreign ownership of local media and foreign lobby money restrictions, and even coming out smelling like roses at the expense of their colleagues in the mainstream media.

Thanks to a Manila-datelined report by The New York Times' Raymond Bonner, we now know that Newsbreak received $10,000 from the Swiss Embassy to underwrite the present issue of the magazine, a special edition on federalism.

Newsbreak did disclose that it had receive—"solicited" was how Bonner put it—Swiss support, but never mentioned the amount. "They (the Swiss embassy) have left editorial judgment to us," the magazine said, to dispel any thought of a possible *quid pro quo* arrangement for the donation.

Still, the same issue carried a whole-page spread on Zurich and Geneva, complete with a smiling visage of, surprise, Swiss Ambassador Lise Favre.

Bonner added, in the approving reportage, that Newsbreak also received $42,000 from the United States Institute of Peace, "a congressionally funded nonpartisan organization based in Washington," for the magazine writers to conduct more reporting on Mindanao.

What the visiting Bonner failed to report is that the majority of the Newsbreak/PCIJ staffers—who sniff at "envelopmental" journalism that afflicts many locals—are themselves correspondents/stringers for the foreign press.

In fact, a number of them also report to the same Washington/New York editors that Bonner reports to.

So what's our point? That here we have the US press interviewing and glorifying their local lieutenants, who receive US and foreign funding and travel grants for what other locals quietly toil for devalued pesos.

Even better, Newsbreak/PCIJ picks up foreign journalism awards, while the INQUIRER suffers advertising boycott and is charged with libel for carrying their stories.

What a neat arrangement.

Jaguar and other nonsense

MALACAÑANG nominees in the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. each receive a brand-new vehicle for their work.

But PCGG nominee Enrique Locsin insists that the Jaguar X he acquired after assuming the chairmanship of Philcomsat was paid for by him, all P2.525 million in cash.

If he was indeed flush with cash, why

COCKTALES/ B8

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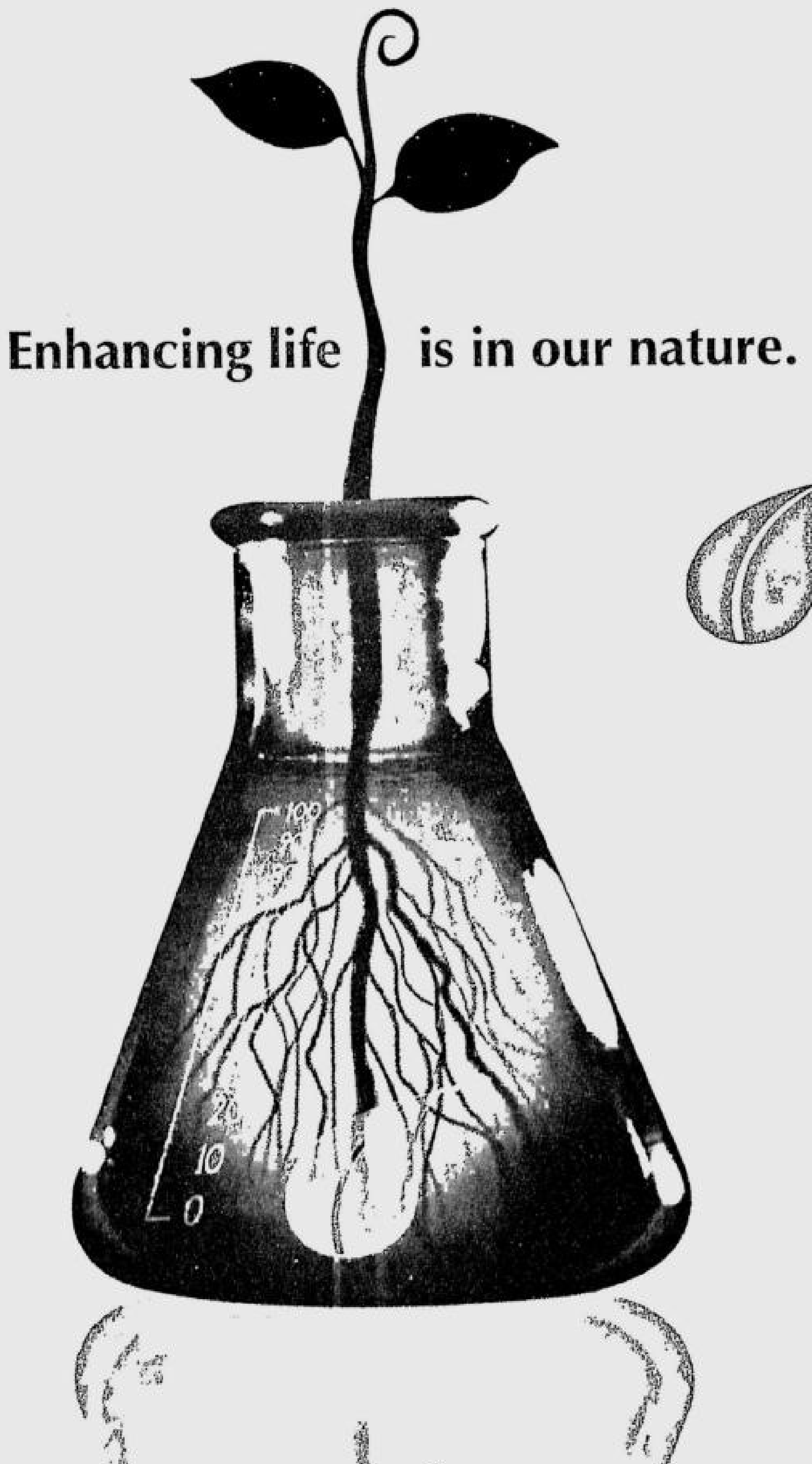
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Economy seen to hit lower end of growth target

Bayantel 6-mo revenue up 9% to ₱2.9B

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc., the phone company of the Lopez group, registered P2.9 billion in revenue in the first half of the year, up 9 percent from P2.66 billion a year ago.

The increase was attributed to the strong sales performance of the company's data and Internet services.

Bayantel chief consultant Tunde Fafunwa said the first semester performance was within the full-year revenue target of P6 billion. In 2004, the company's revenue reached P5.46 billion.

Fafunwa, however, admitted that it would take at least five more years before the company could swing back to profit. Bayantel had been in the red in the past several years.

The company is seeing continued growth in its earnings before income tax, depreciation and amortization.

The company's Ebitda rose 19 percent to P1.3 billion from P1.09 billion last year.

Fafunwa said Ebitda growth would likely average between 15 and 18 percent starting this year, down from a growth rate of 58 percent in 2004.

Bayantel's second quarter performance was stronger compared to the first quarter, when revenue was at P1.4 billion and Ebitda was at P592 million.

Ebitda, according to Bayantel officials, reflects the company's capacity to settle its debts and finance its operations.

"Our operating income line is already positive. We see ourselves becoming profitable in five years or a bit longer than that," Fafunwa said.

The company's debt restructuring is also proceeding smoothly, according to Bayantel chief finance officer Salvador Tirona.

Fafunwa insisted "there are no active discussions" between Bayantel and companies interested to buy it.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. had offered to buy Bayantel from the Lopezes by swapping its shares in Home Cable for a controlling stake in Bayantel. Globe Telecom Inc. had set off a new round of talks with Bayantel after discussions to acquire the company seven years ago bogged down.

Bayantel has 280,000 fixed-line customers within its service area in Metro Manila and key provinces. It operates a major telecom backbone nationwide.

The company had installed 8,000 high-speed Internet lines and the business contributed P130 million in revenue during the first half, up from P66 million a year ago.

Despite political distractions, increasing world oil prices

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ECONOMY may still grow by 5.3 percent this year, or the lower end of the government's target, despite the political turbulence and skyrocketing oil prices, new Economic Planning chief Augusto Santos said yesterday.

"Based on our simulation study and on past data, we arrived at the conclusion that political events don't significantly affect the performance of the economy," Santos told reporters at the sidelines of an economic briefing at the Development Bank of the Philippines.

He added that the National Economic and Development Authority's empirical data showed that recent political distractions had little effect on the performance of the economy so far.

"It could be because we've become so fed up with politics and we know we have to continue earning a living," Santos said.

Last year, the country's gross domestic product expanded by 6.1 percent. For this year, the government had set as its target a range of 5.3-6.3 percent.

GDP, deemed as the single most important indicator of economic performance, measures the amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy in a given period.

The new economic planning chief said the 5.3-percent GDP growth outlook for the year remained viable even despite the recent upsurge in oil prices.

"But if it (oil price) reaches $60 per barrel, it will likely slow down the economy. This is so because 15 percent of our import bill is oil," Santos said.

Santos replaced former Economic Planning chief Romulo Neri, who was appointed budget chief.

Santos said it was urgent for the government to continue fiscal and economic reforms.

He said there should be no conflict between the government spending more to pump prime the economy, on one hand, and maintaining fiscal prudence, on the other hand.

"If you spend more for the right sectors, then the economy will grow. What's not good is if you try to pump-prime the economy and then the money goes somewhere else," Santos said.

"There's nothing wrong with spending more for education, health, nutrition, protection of the environment, infrastructure—roads, ports, water supply and sewerage," he said.

Santos also said he was supportive of proposals to change the country's form of government from presidential to parliamentary.

Asked whether he thought the populace would be willing to give up their right to directly elect the chief of state, he said: "They will still be the ones to elect the representatives. In other countries, the representatives are elected for two years so if they perform poorly in two years, they're gone."

But Santos said the country would need to invest more on education to breed a more mature party system, which is a pre-requisite in a parliamentary form of government.

₱2.5B in investments committed for oil, gas exploration projects

By Abigail L. Ho

SINCE the Supreme Court's declaration of the Mining Act's constitutionality, the Department of Energy has so far received P2.5 billion in investment commitments for petroleum exploration, almost double of last year's investments of P1.3 billion.

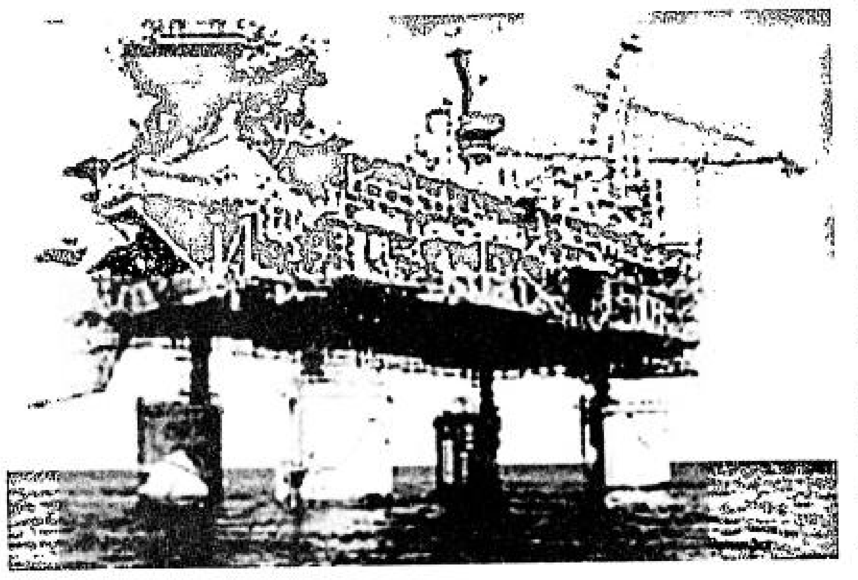
In a speech during yesterday's economic managers' briefing, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said six service contracts had been awarded since the Supreme Court's December ruling that allowed foreign businesses to invest in mining and petroleum exploration projects in the country.

Five other contracts are currently being processed, he said.

"Activities under the new petroleum service contracts generate high quality employment and substantially increase our chances of finding additional oil and gas reserves within our territory," he said.

The country's discovered petroleum reserves are placed at 168 million barrels of oil, 3,841 billion cubic feet of gas and 109 million barrels of condensate.

There are also significant amounts of mapped undiscovered resources, estimated at 1,341 million barrels of oil, 8,112 billion cubic feet of gas and 55 million barrels of condensate.



MALAMPAYA rig off northwest Palawan

Lotilla said having more entities investing in the exploration and development of the country's petroleum resources would significantly help the government reach the goal of 60-percent energy self-sufficiency by 2010.

He said this would also help ease the country's dependence on imported oil, thus minimizing the country's vulnerability to the volatile world oil price environment.

Three of the DOE's service contractors have already started exploring for oil and gas.

Forum Energy Plc (a joint venture between Canada's Forum Energy Corp. and the UK's Sterling Energy Plc), Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex) and Premier Oil Philippines BV have conducted seismic surveys on their exploration blocks to help them pinpoint sites for future drilling.

Japex, which holds Service Contract 46, conducted its initial surveys in early May over the Tanon Strait in Negros Occidental. It would be investing around $12.7 million in its seven-year exploration program.

BSP policy rates steady

From page B1

yond the influence of monetary policy.

"The board took note of the potential impact of the foreign exchange inflows, exchange rate and inflation," Tetangco said.

He added that the BSP would like to see the full impact of the recent increases on the reserve requirement.

Earlier, the BSP siphoned off P26 billion from the financial system by raising the reserve requirements by two percentage points to 21 percent.

The percentage of regular or statutory reserves, or the portion of deposit and deposit substitutes kept with the BSP, was raised from 9 to 10 percent while the liquidity reserve was raised from 10 to 11 percent.

The regular reserves refer to funds kept with the BSP, a quarter of which the BSP pays the banks at 4-percent interest.

On the other hand, the liquidity reserves refer to the portion of funds required to be placed in investments that can be readily converted into cash.

Tetangco said the BSP continued to monitor carefully the country's inflationary path and would be ready to take appropriate action as needed to curb emerging pressures.

In June, the rate of increase in the prices of consumer products slowed down to 7.6 percent.

The rate was slower than the 8.5 percent in the first five months of the year. It was, however, still higher than the full-year target of 5 to 6 percent.

Doris C. Dumlao

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Balanced budget . . .

From page B1

ing for the implementation of the VAT law, although the government's original fiscal targets could already be achieved even without it.

"We want the VAT law implemented because it will facilitate the attainment of our goal," he said during the economic team's first press conference yesterday held at the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Teves explained that with the VAT, the ideal zero-deficit scenario could even be attained ahead of time.

Teves said the economic team was hoping the Supreme Court would lift the temporary restraining order on the VAT by next month, and have it implemented by September.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri agreed that a revised target was possible, considering that this year alone, the government is poised to save P25 billion to P30 billion from interest payments.

Neri explained that the government's original fiscal target for the year—a budget deficit of P180 billion by year-end—assumed an interest rate much higher than the actual rates running so far.

Without the VAT, Neri said, the deficit could go down to P158 billion this year. If the VAT law would be implemented by September, then the deficit could fall below P100 billion by 2006.

"Our numbers are already good, even without the VAT," Neri said. "But with the VAT, the deficit could even be less than P100 billion next year, and this may give us an upgrade [of the country's credit ratings]."

The new economic team members—among them, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, and National Economic and Development Authority Director General Augusto Santos—said they would basically pursue the development programs already initiated by their predecessors.

Macroeconomic programs under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, the fiscal reform measures like the anti-smuggling anti-tax evasion and anti-corruption campaigns, and programs to develop small and medium enterprises that have been started by the old economic team would be pursued, they said.

Except for Lotilla and Neri, the rest of the team are new members of the Cabinet.

Teves replaced Cesar Purisima, Favila replaced Juan Santos, and Augusto Santos replaced Neri, who transferred from Neda to the Department of Budget and Management. Neri replaced Emilia Boncodin.

Purisima, Juan Santos and Boncodin resigned from their posts, saying they were disenchanted with the Arroyo leadership.

Napocor bleeding may ease

From page B1

will be reduced, he added.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar had earlier said that the state firm last year saved P3.4 billion due to its continued implementation of economic load dispatching—almost four times the 2003 savings of P854 million.

Economic load dispatching refers to meeting power demand using available generating units at the least possible cost. This may mean dispatching power from plants that use cheaper fuel at certain points during the day to help lessen operating costs.

Del Callar said much cost-cutting had to be done last year to keep Napocor afloat. Fuel costs, in particular, gave Napocor a huge headache.

"2004 was the worst case for us, in terms of fuel costs," he said. "We have to continue all of these (cost-cutting measures)."

Another way to cut costs for Napocor is to reduce the subsidies to off-grid areas—a move that is seen to cut the state firm's losses by at least P2 billion a year.

Del Callar said Napocor provided as much as P2 billion in subsidies a year to the 14 islands covered by the company's Small Power Utilities Group (Spug).

Lifting subsidies in seven of these islands—Bantayan, Marinduque, Romblon, Tablas, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan and Catanduanes—could reduce Napocor's losses by at least P1.5 billion a year.

"We can use this amount to energize far-flung areas that truly need our support," Del Callar said.

Napocor's Spug generates power at an average cost of P10 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). However, the state firm sells this to rural electric cooperatives at much lower rates of P3.74 per kWh in Luzon, P5.64 per kWh in the Visayas and P4.80 per kWh in Mindanao.

The state firm will gradually be easing these missionary subsidies, starting with the increase in Luzon Spug rates to P5.64 per kWh from P3.74 per kWh.

Also, Napocor would eliminate wastes and boost the efficiency of the Spug. The first wave of the privatization of SPUG operations in 14 islands would also help slash the state firm's losses.

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Sa kanyang karagatan lamang dumadayo ang pinakamalaking isda (Whaleshark) at natatanging marine mammal na nabubuhay sa halamang dagat (Dugong). Sa mga lawa ay naroon ang pinakatanging ahas-dagat (Taal Seasnake) at pinakamaliit na isdang nakakain (Sinarapan).

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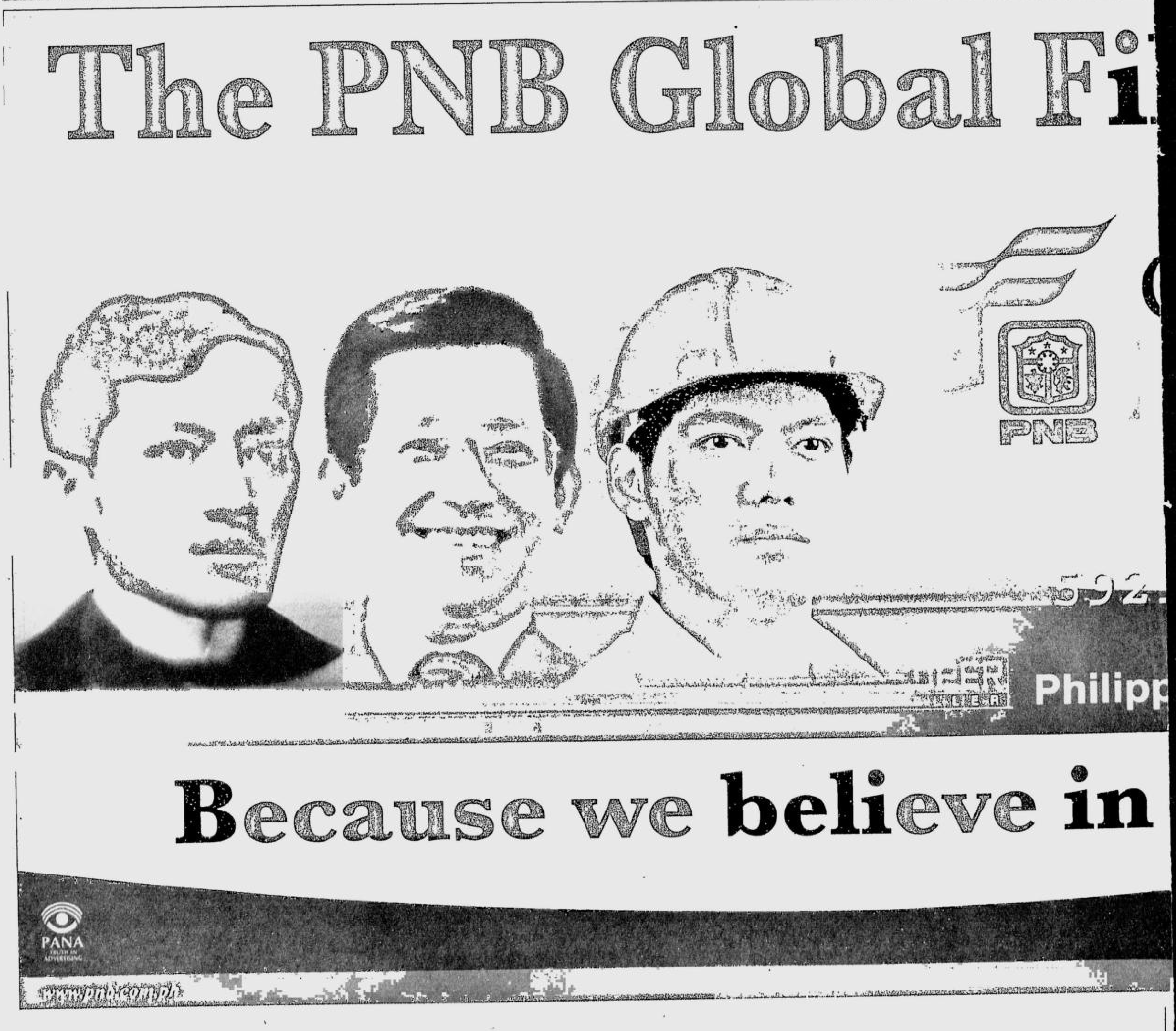

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Get tax cases moving, BIR told

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE Secretary Margarito Teves has given the Bureau of Internal Revenue a month to provide the data the Department of Justice needs to get tax evasion cases moving in the courts.

The DOF and the BIR have filed over 20 tax evasion cases with the DOJ under the Run After Tax Evaders Program (RATE), the intensified anti-tax evasion campaign under which tax evasion cases against high-profile individuals are filed every week.

But since the program's launching in March, the DOJ has not filed a single case in the appropriate courts.

Teves said he met recently with revenue officials and told them to quickly provide the requirements asked by the DOJ to speed up the processing of the cases.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan earlier said the DOF was open to filing the tax cases directly with the courts, instead of going through the DoJ, to address the delay.

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales traced the delay to the haphazard filing of cases by the BIR and the DOF, therefore making it difficult for the DOJ to quickly process the cases.

For her part, BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares had said the delay had to do with the inexperience of both the BIR and the DOJ in regularly filing tax evasion cases.

She said it was the first time that the government had initiated a program like RATE.

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Shares close . . .

From page B1

index rose 25.28 points to 1,999.82 after trading between 1,974.54 and 2,003.40. The all-shares index rose 14.88 points to 1,201.31.

Volume amounted to 502.6 million shares worth P1.74 billion ($31 million dollars). Gainers led losers 73 to 11, with 31 stocks unchanged.

"Money is clearly pouring into equities on expectations of better earnings results and the economy's resilience in the second quarter and moving forward," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities. *AFP*

Cocktales

From page B5

did Locsin have to borrow P1.922 million in housing loan from a Philcomsat subsidiary right after his 2003 appointment?

Even better, a year after, Locsin had paid only the grand sum of P67,857 for the loan.

At that rate, it would take Locsin over 28 years to fully amortize the loan, outlasting even GMA and most likely the natural life of his brother, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.

Heard through the grapevine

PARALLEL importer Lucio Co of Puregold fame has acquired all 10 stores of the ailing Uniwide chain, bringing Puregold's total store count to 24.

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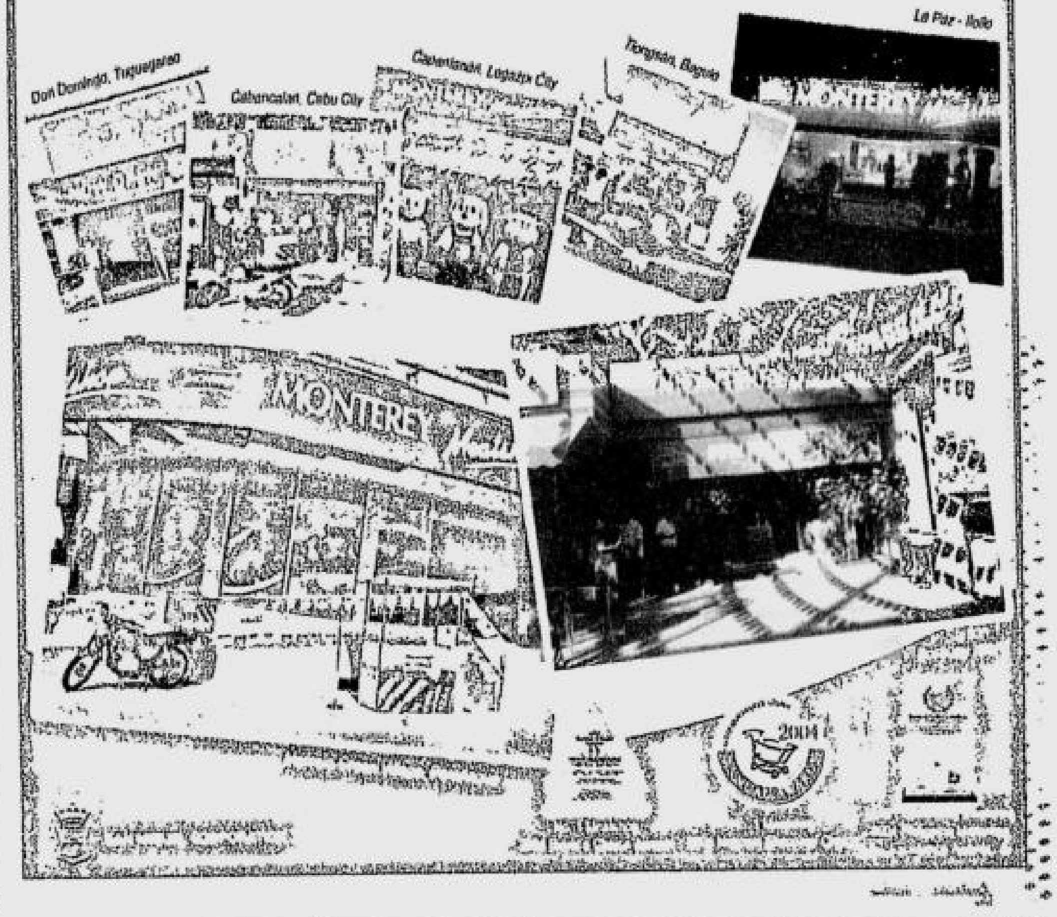

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COMELEC Report to the Public

THE 2005 ARMM ELECTIONS WILL BE:

*** PEACEFUL & ORDERLY...**

The candidates who will be participating in the ARMM Regional Elections committed themselves to a good and clean electoral race when they signed a Peace Covenant with the COMELEC on July 18, 2005.

*** TRANSPARENT & CREDIBLE...**

For the first time, the COMELEC opened the joint COMELEC-AFP-PNP-DEPED Command Conference, on July 18, 2005, to the public, allowing all stakeholders to preview the plans for securing the sanctity of the ballot, and to input their specific concerns.

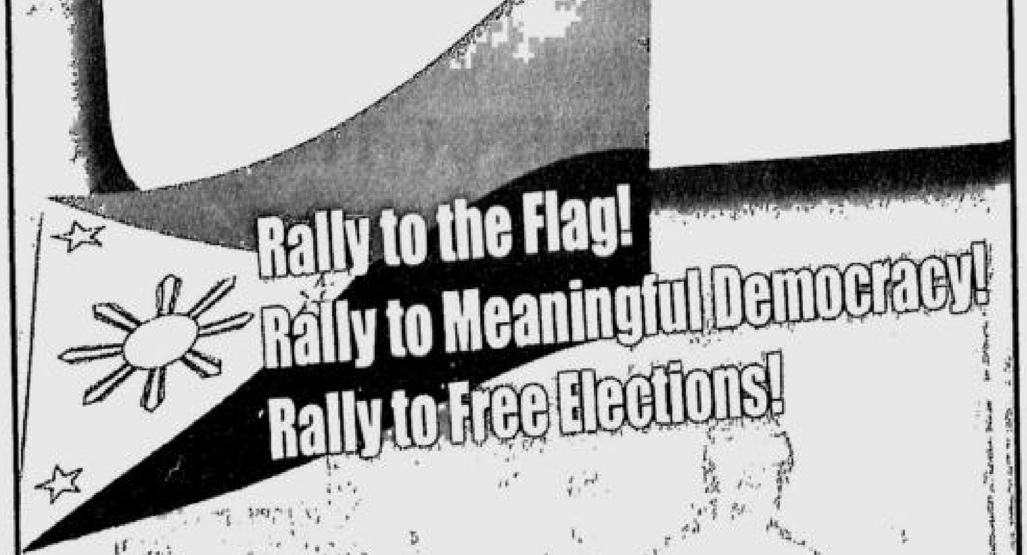
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION WILL BE:

*** STREAMLINED & FOCUSED...**

The assignment of a Commissioner-in-Charge for every province in the ARMM will allow faster decision-making, and the presence of the CIC's in the field will act as a deterrent against attempts to defraud the elections.

***PRO-ACTIVE & MORE RESPONSIVE.**

Special Action Officers - hand picked COMELEC Election Officers from all over the country - will provide assistance during election day to ensure pro-activity and greater responsiveness to election day issues and concerns as they arise.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Rally to Meaningful Democracy!
Rally to Free Elections!

VOTE IN THE ARMM REGIONAL ELECTIONS ON AUGUST 8, 2005
Lanao del Sur, including Marawi City • Maguindanao • Basilan, except Isabela City • Sulu • Tawi-Tawi

A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF LOSS

The public is hereby notified that one (1) pad of Official Receipt bearing the inclusive serial numbers 6867051-6867100 was lost in the Office of the Election Officer of Balatan, Camarines Sur. In view thereof, these Official Receipts were declared invalid and any transaction using the above official receipt shall not be considered official, and the government, particularly the Commission on Elections shall not be bound by any use thereof.

The public is therefore earnestly requested to immediately report to the nearest local office of the Commission on Elections and the National Treasury any information regarding the issuance and unlawful use of the aforesaid official receipts.

26 July 2005.

(Sgd.) **PIO JOSE S. JOSON**
Executive Director

(PDI–July 29, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF JUNK ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : August 9, 2005, 2:00 P.M., Solarium Hall, Bldg -1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
SCHEDULE – I		
1	One (1) lot of scrap metal consisting of metal sheets forms, steel buoy, steel chain, frames and various types of steel cabinets located at Re-Greening Field Office and Rad-Waste Building, BNPP, Morong, Bataan.	P 862,640.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot junk items consisting of unserviceable substations equipment, batteries, radiators, heat sink, junk motor vehicles located at Concepcion Substation, Concepcion, Tarlac	P 78,050.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot various unserviceable storage tanks, 11 units and assorted scrap metals consisting of substation equipment, empty drums, located at Bataan Thermal Power plant, Limay, Bataan	P 338,223.00/lot
4.	One (1) lot unserviceable power cable located at Mak-Ban GTPP Bo. Bitin, Bay, Laguna	P 3,132,000.00/lot
5.	One (1) lot of Amlam, Pipeline, located at Amlan, Negros Oriental	P. 70,400.00/lot
SCHEDULE – II		
1	Bante 8,010 bags, 100 lbs per bag located at Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant, Tiwi, Albay	p 502,627.50/lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004) ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER
3. TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER

INTERESTED PARTY WHO WISH TO SECURE BID FORM MUST PRESENT ONE (1) VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. OIC, Warehousing Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. I, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 PM, August 8, 2005.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – July 27, 28 & 29, 2005)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HEIRS OF THE LATE CONCEPTION AGUINALDO GARDUQUE HAVE EXECUTED A DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AS PER DOC NO 131 PAGE NO 027 BOOK NO 331 SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE ATTY WILFREDO O ABIOG A NOTARY PUBLIC
(PDI JULY 29 AUG 1 & 8 2005)

Notice is given that the estate of the late spouses LUIS G. PALABRICA and ADELAIDA RECINTO-PALABRICA has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs on July 25, 2005 before Erwin M. Layug Notary public in and for Lipa City as per Doc No. 436, Page No. 87, Book No. XVI, Series of 2005 (PDI-Jul 29, Aug 5, & 12 '05)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"We Serve"

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the implementation of quarterly **MAINTENANCE SERVICES** for all generator sets of the Baguio Water District.

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification and bid documents from the BAC-In house Secretariat, Baguio Water District, BWD Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City after payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00) during office hours from 8 to 12 August 2005.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility documents and bids shall be on 29 August 2005, on or before 12:00 o'clock noon. Opening and evaluation of the eligibility documents shall follow at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

The bidder or his/her authorized representative shall personally submit all requirements insofar as the latter is authorized through a Special Power of Attorney.

The BAC-In house shall determine the eligibility of a prospective bidder using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The BWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract as provided for under the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

For further information, inquiries may be coursed through the BAC-In House Secretariat at the aforementioned address at telephone numbers (074) 444-7245.

(Sgd.) Atty. Ma. Luisa C. Tenedero
Chairman, BWD BAC-In House

(PDI–July 29 & Aug. 5, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JOHNSON REY M. GO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS PER DOC. NO.421; PAGE NO. 84; BOOK NO. II; SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ROMEO G. DE LEON OF QUEZON CITY
(PDI-JULY 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SPOUSES AVELINA MANALO SEVILLA AND FRANCISCO L. SEVILLA has been extrajudicially settled by and among their surviving heirs in an instrument acknowledged before Notary Public Esperanza Gilera Aclan (Doc. No. 4348, Page No. 71, Book No. IX) on July 23, 2005 at Mabini, Batangas, Philippines.
(PDI July 29 & August 5, 12 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONCIO CU has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc# 36; Page# 9; Book# XI; Series of 2005 before notary public Atty. Gavino Meneses, Jr. of Makati
(PDI-July 22, 29 & Aug 5, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that STOCK CERT. NOS. 061735 (4shrs); 085414 (2shrs); 104596 (1shr); 124823 (2shrs); 253063 (1shr) 300746 (1shr) under the name of MIGUEL G. LAGMAN and STOCK CERT. NOS. 168095 (20shrs); 205313 (1shr); 300747 (1shr) under the name MIGUEL GOZO DE STA CRUZ LAGMAN issued by Philippine NAtional Bank has been reported lost. If no contest received new certificates will be issued. (PDI-July 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

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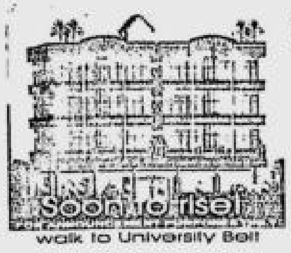

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QUEZON CITY

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LAGUNA

192m².w/Fin.Southpeak1 (Filinvest, beside Fil. TAT Golf), San Pedro. 0920-6540954

Calamba Palo Alto 3HA. P700sqm. 8425621

FACTORY/WHSE

COMM'L/IND'L WHSE & LOT 10,193m² QC 4563243

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MANILA

House/Bedspacers 1500-7000 Call AJ 09204136412 5610960

MANDALUYONG

3BR 20/25T AS OFC RES CTC Lyn 5320141 09159005651

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MANDALUYONG

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QUEZON CITY

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

NR LASALLE 3BR 3TB 8992148

MANDALUYONG

2BR 2TB Condo T-5334321

PASIG

Reinessance 2000 3BR semifurn 45T 911-4510

RESD'L-OFF AMBERLAND PLAZA ORTIGAS CTR. 144sqm Call:7214674

QUEZON CITY

Burgundy Katipunan fronting Ateneo 2BR furn rent19Tneg 0917-8550207•0917-6303454

APARTMENT

PASAY

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QUEZON CITY

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BUSINESS RENTAL

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LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

MAKATI

COMML/OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (58m²- 627m²) 887-6003

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VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT

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390 sqm.	2,418,000.00
420 sqm.	2,604,000.00
441 sqm.	2,734,200.00
457 sqm.	2,833,400.00
464 sqm.	2,876,800.00
474 sqm.	2,938,800.00
480 sqm.	2,976,000.00
663 sqm.	3,924,600.00
676.5 sqm.	4,194,300.00

*Subject to bank approval. Properties and prices are subject to change without prior notice. The bank reserves the right to withdraw any property for whatever reason. Show money Php25,000 Cash/MC per property. All properties for sale are on " As is, where is" basis.

For more details, call **THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.** at:
534-9686; 534-9725 Monday to Sunday, 7AM to 7PM
633-1988 to 90 Monday to Sunday, 10AM to 9PM
CELLPHONE NO.: 0921-6722888

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Wireless Technology Solutions, Inc., in cooperation with Autodesk, Inc., supports the government's efforts to promote the purchase and/or lawful use of licensed software and other intellectual property rights in the Philippines.

Wireless Technology Solutions, Inc. fully believes in and supports the cause of Autodesk, Inc. The illegel use of unlicensed software must be put to a stop.

The use of illegal software adversely affects the Philippine economy. Illegal software use is also a criminal offense under Republic Act No. 8293. Copyright infringement is punishable by imprisonment terms from 1 to 9 years and a fine from P50,000.00 to P 1,500,000.00.

Wireless Technology Solutions, Inc. urges the public to only use legal, licensed software. Illegal software use is bad for business and bad for the economy.

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2/F Sedeco Building
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Philippines
Phone (632) 892 3228; 892 3252; 813 0120
Facsimile (632) 894 2073
Email: bnu@iplaw.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Province of TAWI-TAWI
Municipality of BONGAO

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government Unit of Bongao, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contracts:

Name of Contract	Concreting of Kamagong – Silubong FMR
Location	Bongao, Tawi-tawi
Brief Description	Road Concreting
Approved Budget Cost	Php 7,453,657.17
Contract Duration	81 calendar days
Contractor's Category	Small "B"
Name of Contract	Concreting of Masjid – Tarawakan – Kamagong FMR
Location	Bongao, Tawi-tawi
Brief Description	Road Concreting
Approved Budget Cost	Php 16,847,214.96
Contract Duration	171 calendar days
Contractor's Category	Medium "B"

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows.

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 2-8, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 2-8, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	August 8, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 10, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 10-22, 2005
6. Pre-Bid Conference	August 13, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 25, 2005, 10:00 A.M.

The BAC will issue to prospective Bidders *Eligibility Forms* at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall Bongao, Tawi-tawi, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos only (Php 2,000.00) for each contract to the LGU of Bongao's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos only (Php 3,500.00) for each contract to the LGU of Bongao's Cashier.

The LGU of Bongao assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

Approved by:
(Sgd.) MOH.NUR BAHAD
BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 29, 2005)

Aboitiz's 2GO lowers tariff by 15%

ABOITIZ freight group 2GO recently announced that it would lower its rates by 15 percent starting July 1 in support of the Department of Agriculture's goal to reduce prices of agri products.

The announcement came from 2GO RRTS SVP and COO Mike Camahort during a press conference held onboard SuperFerry 18 at the Eva Macapagal Super Terminal. "The 15-percent tariff reduction of 2GO is in line with the DA's program to reduce the prices of basic produce like pork, vegetables and fish," said Camahort.

The DA, led by former Sec. Arthur Yap, recently partnered with 2GO for its RRTS service to move agri products from Cagayan de Oro for a trial shipment that would help realize its Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) or the reduction of the cost of wage goods through productivity enhancement, efficient logistics and transport systems, and direct market linkages.

The trial shipment was loaded with various agricultural and fishery products produced by the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industries of Northern Mindanao (Caffinormin), and were transported to Metro Manila's Department of Agriculture-recognized "Huwarang Palengke."

The unloading of these goods in Pier South Manila was witnessed by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to 2GO SVP and COO Mike Camahort, its RRTS or Road Roll-on roll-off Terminal System service, "reduces the travel time of produce coming from Mindanao and Visayas from 6 to 3 days, (making them) deliver the freshest and most affordable produce at the fastest possible time."

According to Yap, the RRTS program is a vital component of the DA's goal of reducing the prices of basic commodities and boosting agri-business activities through the Huwarang Palengke as it provides consumers of the basic commodities at a more affordable price in various markets of the country. "We are happy of 2GO's support by lowering its tariff."

Camahort added that all produce shippers, and not only accredited suppliers of the DA-endorsed Huwarang Palengke, may avail themselves of the 15-percent discount.

2GO RRTS SVP Mike Camahort and former DA Sec. Arthur Yap during a press conference on utilizing RRTS for DA's programs.

palmOne, Globe deliver Treo 650 smartphone to RP

MOBILITY Award 2005 Product of the Year Treo 650 smartphone has finally come to Philippine shores promising a great connectivity experience to Globe mobile subscribers.

Combining a fully featured quad-band mobile phone with a wide range of productivity applications including e-mail, organizer and Web access, the Treo 650 is the ideal handheld solution to equip the mobile professional in his foray into the changing world of business and technology.

"The Treo 650 smartphone provides Globe customers with increased mobility and a way to simplify their business and personal lives with an all-in-one device," said Paul Blinkhorn, vice president for Asia Pacific for palmOne. "Whether it's reviewing e-mail, viewing a presentation or simply making a conference call, the Treo 650 smartphone lets busy people manage the critical components of their lives while out of the office."

For starters, the Treo 650 comes free under Globe Plan 5000 (Platinum); or for P10,000 under Plan 3500 (G-Max); P18,000 under Plan 2500 (G-Match); P24,000 under Plan 1800 (G-Talk plus); P28,000 under Plan 1200 (G-Talk); and P32,000 under Plan 800 (G-Mix).

And from now until Aug. 31, a Bluetooth headset worth P3,900 will also be offered free with every purchase of the Treo 650 smartphone.

Feature-packed, the Treo 650 lets users view, edit and create Word and Excel compatible documents or access PowerPoint presentations on the go. In addition, Bluetooth wireless technology allows the Treo 650 to connect wirelessly to other compatible Bluetooth devices, such as printers and headsets.

Multimedia capabilities include a built-in MP3 player2 and a digital camera that can capture still images and video that can be viewed on the vibrant color screen all in a device that's still small enough to fit in your pocket.

For more information on the Treo 650 smartphone, log on to www.palmOne.com/sg or call the Globe hotline number 730-1000 or dial 211 (from any Globe handyphone) and 171 (from any Globelines). You can also visit any Globe dealer nearest you.

ASSOCIATION OF ACCREDITED

4A'S-P INDUCTS FIRST AD AGENCY OUTSIDE MANILA

The Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (4A's-P) recently inducted Campaigns Cebu during its General Membership Meeting. Campaigns Cebu, thus, becomes the first and only advertising agency to be accredited by the prestigious organization outside of Metro Manila. It has also recently set up a branch to service clients in southern Mindanao, Campaigns Davao. Campaigns Cebu is affiliated with the multinational advertising agency Campaigns and Grey. The other inductees were Harrison Communications and Publisis Manila. Present during the induction were (from left): Mitos Camahort, 4As president and inducting officer; Vicki Pastoriza, director for client service-Campaigns Cebu; Zen Pastoriza, general manager, Campaigns Cebu; Dino Laurena, Russel Corcuera (partly hidden) and Mariel Arenas, managing partners, Harrison Communications, Delia Dacanay, GM and CFO, Publisis Manila, and Marlon Rivera, executive creative director.

Quality seeds key to strengthening agriculture supply chain—FRLD

QUALITY seeds have emerged as a key factor in strengthening the agriculture and food industry, not only because the entire production cycle literally starts with it, but also because it determines plant performance and yield that affect the price-competitiveness of aggie and food products and their affordability to consumers.

This assessment came from the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD), a non-government organization in the agriculture industry. FRLD president Antonio V. Roces said, though, that the role of high-yielding, quality seeds in agricultural productivity had often been overlooked and sometimes ignored.

Citing corn as an example, Roces said the importance of quality seeds could contribute even to the cost-efficiency of transporting the grains.

Sacks increase price

Results of various studies point to the use of sacks as a major culprit for the rise in corn prices. At various points of the supply chain, the grains have to be put into and taken out of the sacks from the farm to the corn mill, to the trucks and to the shipping vessel, and to the trucks again or to the barges all the way to the feed mills.

Yet, the cost of this laborious and tedious process can be reduced substantially through the use of silos, instead of sacks, in corn handling, transport and shipment. However, the use of silos is feasible only if there is uniformity in quality, regularity in the shipment, and the required volume of the corn to be shipped.

"It is here where corn variety plays a very crucial role, not only in quality, but also in quantity, to make corn production profitable for the farmers and affordable to the end-users. It all boils down to quality seeds, and the same can be true to other agri-business products," Roces said.

Research intensive

However, there are few firms engaged in developing quality and high-yielding seeds, since this business is technology and research intensive.

One such firm is East-West Seed Company Inc, the pioneer integrated vegetable seed company in the Philippines.

Established in 1982, East-West started as a dream to apply European-style seedmanship to create better seed varieties for farmers in tropical Asia. Intensive plant breeding programs started in the Philippines and then expanded to Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

"Hybrid bitter gourds and other tropical cucurbits became the benchmark of our sustainable business development," said chief executive officer Simon N. Groot. "We use applied plant breeding techniques to develop varieties with advanced characteristics, more tolerant to pests and diseases, and perform well under Philippine climate, even under stressful conditions," Groot said.

To help boost the country's agricultural productivity, cost-efficiency and competitiveness, East-West will exhibit its products and technologies at the Agrilink/Foodlink 2005 slated at the World Trade Center Manila from Oct. 6 to 8.

East-West has joined the more than 20 industry associations and their members in a concerted effort to strengthen the supply chain through Agrilink and Foodlink, the country's biggest and most prestigious annual international trade show on agri-business and food.

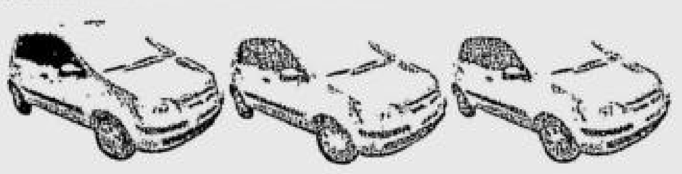
Inquiries and reservations can be made with FRLD at 838-4549, 838-4852; fax 838-4573, or e-mail frld@pldtdsl.net, or log on to www.frld.org/agrilink.

Agrilink and Foodlink are also geared to generate business opportunities, retail sales, booked orders, marketing tie-ups, joint ventures, and other lucrative transactions between the exhibitors and the hordes of local and foreign visitors and trade buyers.

Sara Lee excites dealers with promo

SARA Lee Direct Selling-Philippines excites dealers with the "Winning Hearts" raffle promo. Sara Lee dealers nationwide stand a chance to win any of three brand new Hyundai Getz. Other exciting prizes include Nokia 1100 cellphones with Smart Super SIM3 and P115 worth of Smart e-loads. Best of all, joining is easy as dealers get a raffle coupon for every P500 purchase order within the promo period July 1 to 31.

The three Hyundai Getz will be raffled off on Aug. 5 at the Sara Lee Direct Selling-Philippines head office in Makati City to one winner each for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. But every week, Sara Lee Direct Selling-Philippines branches will draw winners for P115 Smart E-loads and the Nokia 1100 with Smart Super SIM3.



Sara Lee Direct Selling is the authorized distributor of prestigious brands that include Playtex, Hanes, Wonderbra, Barely There, Just My Size, Girls' Attitudes, Champion, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS. Versus, Nutrimetics, Zwitsal, Moccona and Douwe Egberts. Sara Lee Direct Selling is also known as Fuller Cosmetics in Latin America and Nutrimetics in many parts of the world.

For more information, e-mail customer_relation@saraleedirectselling.ph, fax 867-2279, or text 0921-9643367 or 0915-9823471.

Bits & Clips

Semicon weekend price off

SEMICON announces a special three-day price cut off the latest mobile handsets from Sony Ericsson. From July 29 to 31, buyers can enjoy more than 25 percent off regular prices of their favorite Sony Ericsson handsets, like the S700i camera phone. Other handsets to hanker for on this weekend sale are the award-winning 2-megapixel K750i camera phone; the 3G clamshell Z800 with Motion Eye rotating camera and the sleek aluminum 3G phone with a 262,000 TFD screen K600i.

More choices for stylish and state-of-the-art mobile communications from Sony Ericsson are available at Semicon. Participating Semicon branches are located in SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, The Podium and in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center.

MTV, VH1 'Right to Royalty'

MORE artists have confirmed to join the MTV and VH1 "Right to Royalty" concert by HP, which is set to take place tonight at The Fort Open Field, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Gary V and Kuh Ledesma recently confirmed their participation together with Rivermaya, South Border, The Dawn, Randy Santiago, Sarah Geronimo, Bayang Barrios, Jimmy Bondoc and Mark Bautista. They join previously announced performers Nina, Barbie Almalbis, Paolo Santos, Side A, True Faith, Seven Shots of Wisdom, Cynthia Alexander, Grace Nono, Radha, Noel Cabangon, Makiling Ensemble, Geneva Cruz and Pinikpikan. KC Concepcion, along with MTV VJ's KC Montero, Cindy Kurleto and Marc Abaya will host the event. For more details, call the MTV office at 889-9251.

More PEP on page B2-6

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 9265233 +632 4333446
Telefax Nos. +632 9265234 +632 4333444

NOTICE OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE PASIG RIVER FERRY SERVICE PROJECT

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the Pasig River Ferry Service Project will hold a consultative meeting on August 05, 2005, Friday at 2:00 P.M. to be held at the Manila City Conference Room of the Metro Manila Development Authority, 2F, MMDA Building, EDSA corner Orense St., Guadalupe, Makati City.

For inquiries, please call Mr. Michael Acosta / Ms. Amelita Gamay at Telefax Nos. 926-5233 / 926-5234.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

(PDI–July 29, 2005)

ProductFILES

Ozonated mini water station for small communities

THE ELECTROMEX UHP-500 Ozonated Mini Water Station

TO PROVIDE a source of safe, clean, potable drinking water purification system for small communities, the Electromex UHP-500 Ozonated Mini Water Station system allows use of water from various sources such as municipal water, deep well, and springs. It uses cutting-edge ozone treatment technology used in major cities around the world such as Paris, France and Los Angeles, California. Ozone treatment far excels other known chemical water treatments. Ozone has no toxic residues and is 3,000 times more effective as a disinfectant than chlorine. The system is designed to be transportable for easy deployment and scalable to meet various community demands.

The Electromex UHP 500 Ozonated Mini Water Station is low-cost, compact-sized (4 feet x 4 feet x 6 feet), high-capacity (3 gallons per minute), stand-alone fully assembled "plug-and-play" water system. Unlike the obsolete 75-percent wasted water and expensive salty reverse osmosis system, the UHP 500 costs only 30 centavos per gallon to process. You get instant profitability and fast ROI, and it doesn't require franchise and royalties. There's no need for drilling, welding or plumbing. You can operate and start making money one hour after installation. The UHP 500 comes complete with tanks, pumps, ultra violet filters, carbon, frame, and control panel. It's easy to operate and maintain, any responsible adult in the family can do it.

For more details, call Electromex at 531-6782 or 535-9069, or visit its offices at 287 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong. Dealers are welcome.

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FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
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In Loving Memory

on the 11th **Death Anniversary** of

Lily De Las Alas Padilla

on July 29, 2005

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12:00 NN, ALPADI, Antipolo and at the following churches:

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, *Quiapo, Manila*	5:00 am
Basilica San Martin de Tours, *Taal, Batangas*	5:00 am
Sacred Heart Parish, *Kamuning*	5:15 am
Immaculate Conception Parish, *Antipolo Cathedral*	6:00 am
St. John Mary Vianney Parish, *Antipolo City*	6:00 am
Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish, *Katipunan Rd., Quezon City*	6:00 am
Christ the King Parish, *Green Meadows, Quezon City*	6:00 am
Mary the Queen Parish, *Greenhills*	6:00 am
Sanctuario De San Antonio, *Forbes Park*	6:15 am/6:00 pm
Parish of St. James the Great, *Ayala Alabang Village*	6:20 am
Don Bosco, *Makati City*	6:30 am
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, *Kanlaon, Quezon City*	7:00 am
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, *Intramuros, Manila*	7:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church, *Quezon Blvd., Quezon City*	8:00 am
Blessed Sacrament Fathers & Brothers *(Sta. Cruz Church), Manila*	8:00 am
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish, *Ayala Alabang Village*	12:15 pm
San Agustin Church, *Intramuros, Manila*	5:30 pm
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace *(Our Lady of Edsa), Quezon City*	5:30 pm
Nuestra Señora De Gracia Parish, *Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City*	6:00 pm
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice *(U.P.) Diliman, Quezon City*	6:00 pm
St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori Parish, *Magallanes*	6:00 pm
St. Francis Parish Church, *Shaw Blvd., Pasig City*	6:00 pm
St. John the Baptist Parish, *Pinaglabanan St., San Juan*	6:00 pm
Chapel of St. Thomas More, *Ateneo, Rockwell, Makati City*	6:05 pm
Sanctuario De San Jose Greenhills, *Mandaluyong City*	6:15 pm
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, *Bel-Air II, Makati City*	6:30 pm
St. John the Baptist Parish, *Pinaglabanan St., San Juan*	7:15 pm

Her children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember her in their prayers.

(Ret. INP Lt. Col.)

Atty. LEANDRO C. VALENZUELA, CPA

"Papa Andring"

April 25, 1925 – July 25, 2005

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 25, 2005*

His beloved wife, **ESPERANZA**;
children **Ma. CORAZON**, **JOSE MANUEL** and **LEOVIN**,
Ma. CARMENCITA, **Ma. AURORA**,
BERNADETTE and **ALEX**;
Grandchildren **Pipoy**, **Denise**, **Andre**, **Renzo**,
Maggie, and **Nathan**;
as well as his siblings **Natividad**, **Ricardo**, **Dominga**,
nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends, request
prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel B6, La Funeraria Paz,
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya St., Quezon City
from July 26, 2005 (Tuesday) to July 28, 2005 (Thursday) and
at No. 4563 9th Street, Sto. Niño, Parañaque City
on July 29, 2005 (Friday).

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park,
Sucat, Parañaque City on July 30, 2005 (Saturday)
at 3:00 p.m.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that who ever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16

God has you in His keeping; we have you in our hearts... forever.

CORAZON GALVEZ GUZMAN

of Tuguegarao, Cagayan and Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 27, 2005 at the age of 83.

Her bereaved husband, **DR. RUFO A. GUZMAN**; children **DRA. EVYLINA**, **DR. GUILLERMO**, and **AVA MARIE**; children-in-law **NITZ CUIZON-GUZMAN** and **CESAR ZULUETA**; grandchildren **RICHARD**, **BENEDICT**, and **MARGARET GUZMAN**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, July 29, 2005 at 11:30 a.m., La Funeraria Paz Crematorium and interment will be on Saturday, July 30, 2005 at the Mt. Carmel Church after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

"We never lose those we give to God"

Fifth Death Anniversary

REV. FR. ODILARDO "Efren" J. Arceo, OSB

(November 14, 1945 – July 29, 2000)

Holy masses for his eternal peace and happiness will be offered at the following churches today, July 29, 2005:

Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Manila	5:30 A.M.
Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Novaliches, Quezon City	6:15 A.M.
Stella Maris College Chapel, Cubao, Quezon City	6:15 A.M.
Benedictine Abbey Church, Mendiola, Manila	6:30 A.M.
San Beda Alabang Church	6:15 A.M.
San Beda Alabang Church	6:30 P.M.
Good Shepherd Convent, Quezon City	6:30 A.M.
Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Quezon City	7:00 A.M.
Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Cubao, Quezon City	7:00 A.M.
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine, Manila	8:00 A.M.
St. Scholastica College Chapel, Manila	12:00 NN
Our Lady of Pillar Parish, Sta. Cruz, Manila	6:15 P.M.
Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Cubao, Quezon City	6:30 P.M.
Basilica of Immaculate Concepcion, Batangas City	7:00 A.M.
St. Mary Euphrasia Parish, Batangas City	7:00 A.M.
St. Euphrasia Church, Granada Hills, California, U.S.A.	8:15 A.M.
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Northridge, California, U.S.A.	9:00 A.M.

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to continuously remember him in their prayers.

"Let us keep the flame of remembrance
burning in our hearts."

ELMER "Boysie" V. DELA ROSA

of Silang, Cavite

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 25, 2005 at the age of 40.*

He is survived by his father **Benefrido**; mother **Edna**; sisters Joey & Ramon, Arlene, Nery & Owie; brothers Eric & Hadrian; relatives and friends request the pious readers to please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state in Silang Town Plaza, Silang, Cavite. Interment will be on Sunday, July 31 at Silang Memorial Garden after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Teodora E. Flores

*peacefully joined her Creator on July 28, 2005
at the age of 90.*

Her bereaved family: children, **Marciana & Nap Abando**; **Luis & Dorothy Flores**; **Antonio Flores**; **Agnes & Pedro Marzan**; grandchildren: **Alan & Nicole** and **Eric Abando**; **Ron Flores**; **Jesse**, **John Peter & Jenina Marzan**; special friend: **Barcelisa Tuazon** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A, Garden of Memories, Bagong Calzada, Pateros, Metro Manila.
Interment will be on Saturday, July 30, 2005 after the 10 a.m. Mass at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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A wave of change happening at Manila Pavilion

By Raquel P. Gomez

A NEW wave of change has come to Manila Pavilion and has put into effect a major makeover to the hotel, making it contemporary and attune to the needs of the discriminating market of today.

Major renovations have taken place to the 37-year-old hotel since Waterfront Philippines Inc., owner of Waterfront Hotel in Cebu, came onboard last year. The new management is very keen on revitalizing the hotel and putting it back in the limelight among the prime luxury hotels in Manila.

The most noticeable change is the transformation of the hotel's lobby into a refreshed facility with a mix of contemporary and classic look. The new lobby now houses the Patisserie, the French bakeshop-cum-diner and Boulvar, the classy and trendy restaurant and music lounge.

Manila Pavilion's famous pastry stand the Patisserie has found a permanent niche in the corner of the lobby that used to house a gallery. For the interiors, the diner adopts a design incorporating a French coffeeshop street scene. It extends to a veranda that offer views of the small shops and restaurants along Maria Orosa Street going to Rizal Park. It's a great place to enjoy cakes, coffee and conversations.

Executive chef Nick Anderson says the Patisserie is an all-day diner where one can find food that will fit his or her requirement. "The menu is developed around the bistro dishes of the French towns so you'd find a simple sandwich, the daily specials, pastas, and salads. A simple menu is a coffee and a cookie but you can also have mash potato and salad."

Boulvar, the flagship undertaking at the heart of Manila Pavilion's dramatic change, promises to stir distinction and definition to the common notion of hotel lounge activity or gathering.

The idea behind Boulvar is that it is a place where people can indulge in business meetings or pass the time to indulge in good food, company and easy listening music, according to Bernardo Corpus Jr., Manila Pavilion's resident manager.

Boulvar offers nice acoustic sounds in the evenings via performances of known and upcoming artists. On Boulvar's opening night this Friday, Zsa Zsa Padilla will perform.

THE Patisserie, a great place to enjoy cakes, coffee and conversations

Boulvar offers a warm and cozy ambiance with the images of waves predominantly present in the details of the arrangement and decor. The bar serves a variety of drinks and food that go with cocktail conversations. Food is a balanced list of dishes meant to capture the appetite of the all-day international crowd.

"The new lobby is where we redefined the image of the new Manila Pavilion," says Anderson. "When they see the wave designs, people would reflect that the Pavilion has a new identity and it's Waterfront. So the new waves have come from Cebu to Manila."

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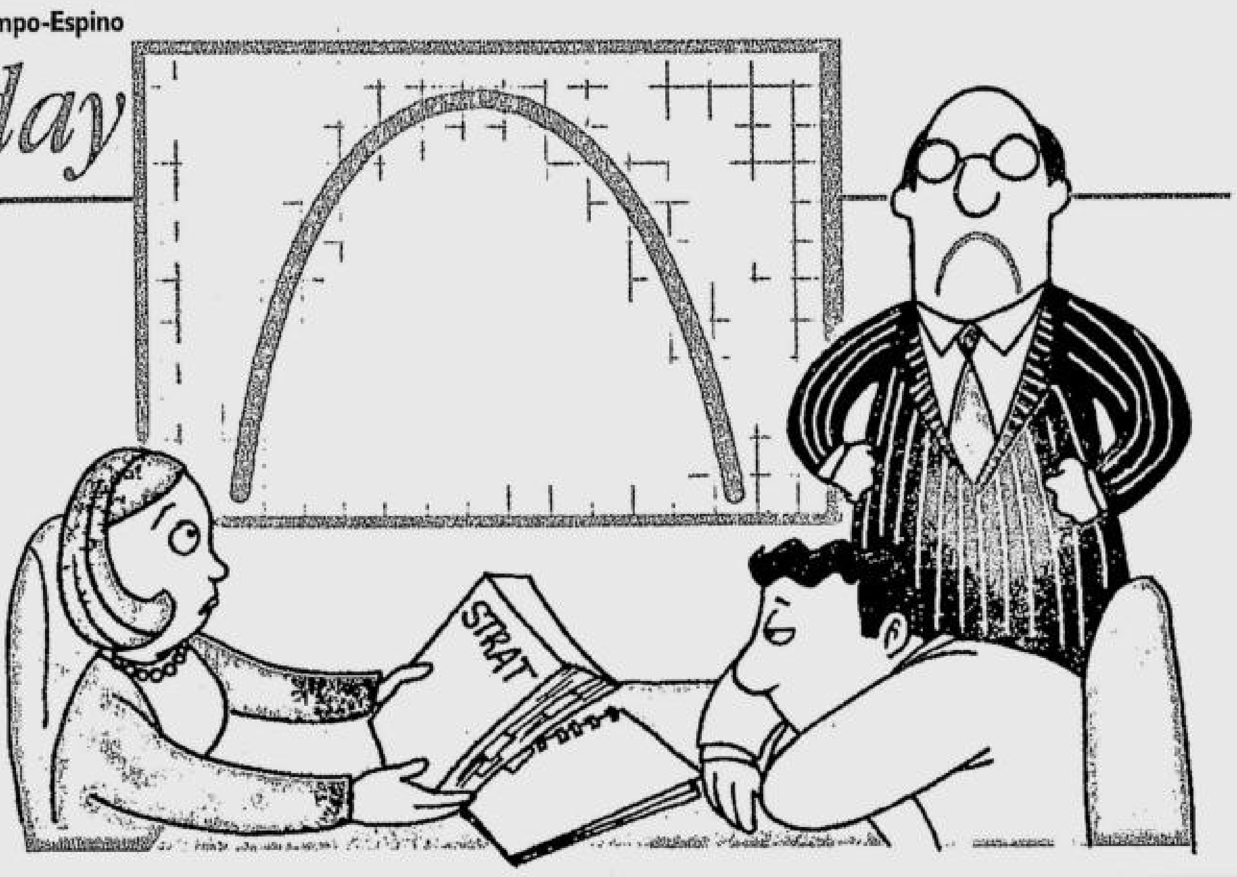
BUSINESS Friday

Great brands don't rely on strategy alone



By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

SOME brands will fail—despite having great strategies behind them—largely because of mediocre implementation and mistakes in execution.

But these mistakes, costly as they are, are often controllable and preventable.

Following are some deadly sins of execution and how they can be addressed.

1. Failure to walk the talk.

Some companies painstakingly develop the brand's differentiating benefit, even taking part in rigorous brand visioning exercises. However, they fail to show the physical evidence to support the benefit.

In some cases, some marketers fail to notify the rest of the employees of new brand initiatives. Thus, an internal buy-in of the brand is sorely lacking.

On the other hand, successful brands carry the mandate of the entire organization's staff. Together, everyone lives and breathes the brand and make real the brand's promise to the consumer.

2. Lack of sustaining value.

The essence of marketing is to prolong the life of the brand. In so doing, it is important to identify the brand vision, including its copy strategy and identity.

Once this has been achieved, it is the marketer's role to communicate the message to the brand's target market. Here lies the test of the brand's copy strategy—are the creative executions reinforcing the brand vision and strategy? Is the creative concept sustainable, leading to several related executions that help create and reinforce the brand's message over time? Is there a balance between insight and creative impact in the materials?

Running out of stock

3. Production slip-ups.

Going out of stock happens when supply does not meet the demand. In some cases, the timely delivery of goods into the hands of the retail trade, and eventually the consumers, can be affected by production related problems, such as gaps in production forecasts and delay in the delivery of raw materials.

4. Absence of products or services in key trade areas.

The marketer may have accurately described the target market's demographic and psychographic qualities. Unfortunately, at the moment of execution, the product or service may be absent in key trade areas and retail outlets where the target market is likely to make a purchase.

This could be due to: the outsourced trade and distribution partner is not in sync with the manufacturer's objective; sales and trade marketer lack an actionable plan, scoreboard and sadly, accountability; possible rift and gap in communication between the brand or marketing and trade and sales people, including failure to communicate plans from the top down to staff, specially among people with customer contact.

Other factors include inaccurate sales and trade forecasts; absence of or weak clout or relationships in trade level; error in budget appropriations, including failure to allocate expenses for merchandisers and listing fees to get better shelf space and determine regular stock replenishment, among others.

Implementation gaps

5. Gap in media implementation.

Media plans are often picture-perfect. When media agencies make their pitch, brand marketers are often presented the most ideal client-customized plan replete with high rating TV and radio media programs, high subscription print publications, etc.

Unfortunately, come media implementation time, it is not surprising to find out that certain brands are bumped off from popular TV programs. When this happens, marketers are forced to choose from poorer alternatives at the last minute.

This situation is likely to happen when: media agencies fail to notify the media supplier in advance and obtain a guarantee long before implementation; media launch dates are changed or in many cases, media representatives are not in sync with their media agency partners in achieving client objectives, among others.

Often, though, most media representatives have a vague idea of client objectives and do not fairly understand the implications of their recommendations.

6. Disjointed ATL (above the line) and BTL (below the line) efforts.

Below the line activities are meant to enhance the consumer experience around the brand while reinforcing the brand's unique, differentiating message. Unfortunately, some special event organizers simply focus on the entertainment value of the event, often failing to assess the relation between the event and the brand's identity and meaning.

Also, some stories based on the public relations events fail to get the targeted media space thus, further watering down the brand's visibility in the market, and falling short of the brand's objective of generating high impact, integrated marketing communications.

Avoiding errors

In the final analysis, many of the execution errors could have been avoided, but to do so may need the following:

1. Establish a buy-in across the entire organization and its partners to seriously support a brand or product. While brand marketers drive the process, the success of the product in the market place is actually a testament to the entire company's and its partners' response to market forces.

To obtain a high grade in this area, the entire organization, its people and its partners must be united in achieving the goal.

2. Strong team engagement and accountability.

A brand's success is not simply the success of the product, brand or marketing manager. It is the success of the entire brand team, including the sales, trade, promo and distribution team; production, research and development, finance and back office work groups; brand partners like the creative, PR, media, BTL agencies, etc.

Thus, each member of the team must know and fully understand the goals behind the brand and hold each member of the team accountable for the brand's performance—all the time.

3. Individual scoreboards and action plans.

With full knowledge of the brand goal comes the understanding that each member of the team knows how to achieve the goal. Each member takes his part and creates his own scoreboard and action plan to meet the objective with appropriate hurdles, deadline-driven plans and milestones.

4. Strong and inspiring leadership.

When in doubt or in need of help, the brand's work team must be able to turn to their respective functional heads for their wisdom, guidance and direction. It is the chief's inspiring leadership that keeps the brand team committed to its goals.

5. Keep the work team constantly focused on the brand's big, important goal (BIG). This way, there is no room for complacency.

6. Maintain an oversight committee composed of experts in their functional areas who are attuned to marketing realities. A growing trend in many countries and among serious players in the industry, the oversight committee is much like the board of advisors serving the board, or in some cases the execom, to see possible gaps in brand marketing.

(The author is a professor of marketing management and brand management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net.)

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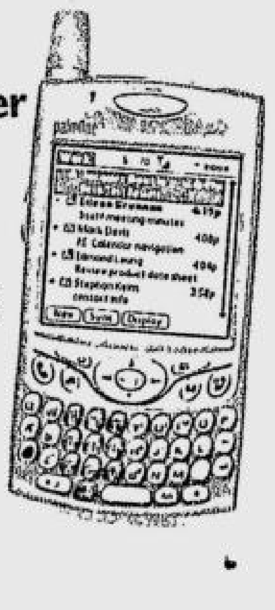

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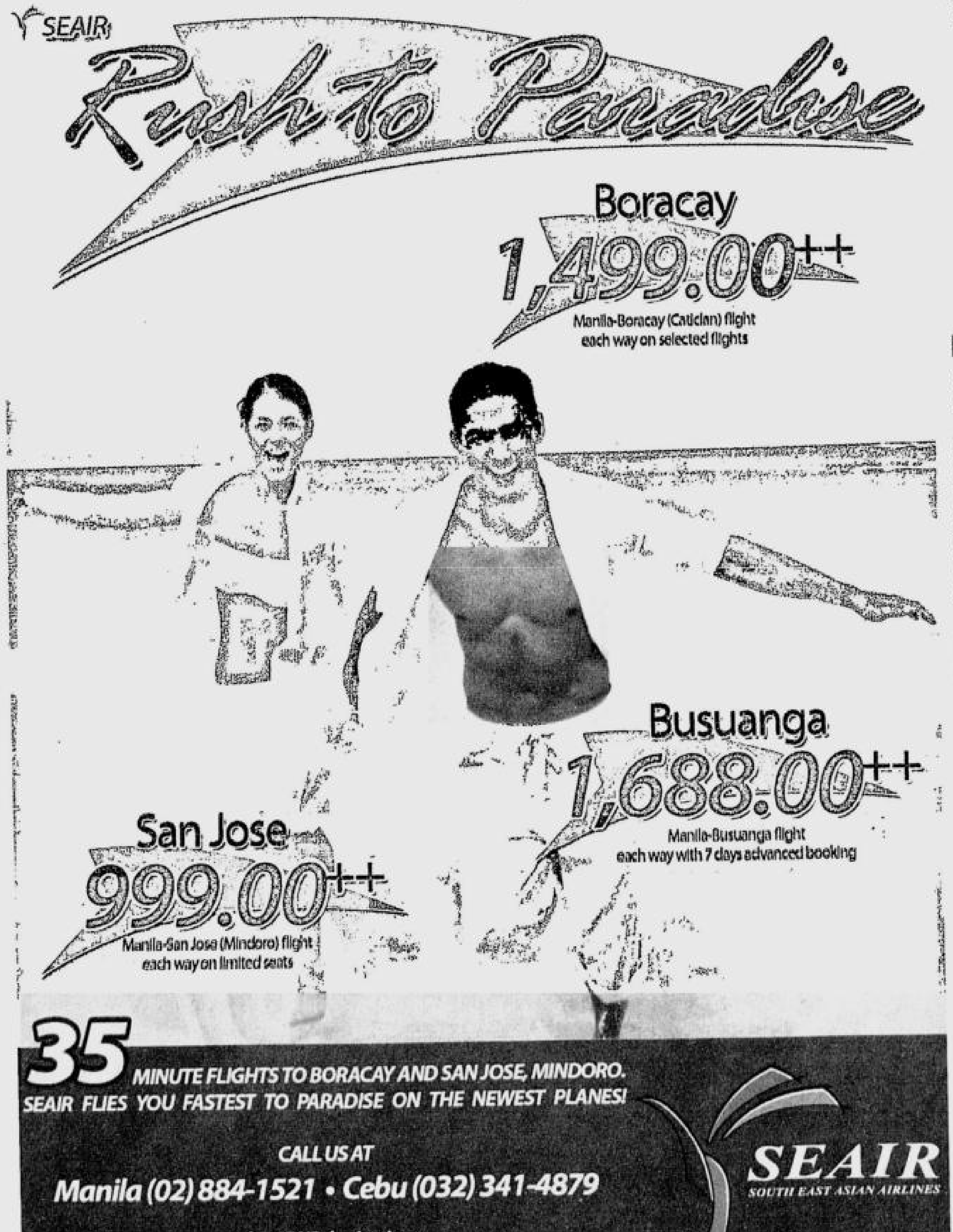

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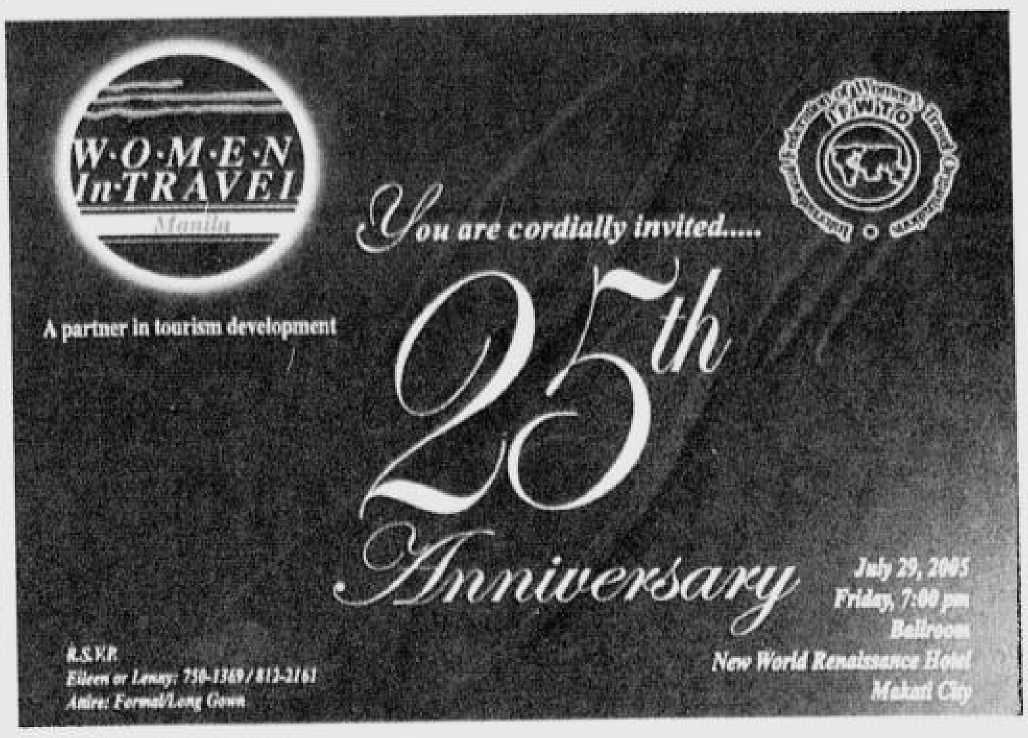

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Seair offers fastest flight to Boracay

DOMESTIC carrier South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR) marked its 10th corporate anniversary with the acquisition of two Dornier 328 aircraft during the first quarter of 2005. This state-of-the-art 35-seater twin engine turboprop aircraft allows SEAIR to fly its passengers from Manila to Caticlan (Boracay) in only' 35 minutes-the fastest flight to Boracay offered by a local airline so far.

"The Dornier 328 aircraft significantly reduces travel time for tourists, thereby allowing them to maximize their travel schedule and reach this major destination with less hassle. Our passengers will be able to make more fulfilling overnight trips or even day trips to resort destinations. With the Dornier 328, we have been able to increase seat capacity in our Boracay flights by 200 percent and boost overall seat capacity in our operations by 50 percent," said Nikos Gitsis, director, South East Asian Airlines.

He added, "SEAIR now provides its customers with 18 flights to Caticlan daily. Clearly, the acquisition of the Dornier 328 is one of the company's major steps in strengthening its position."

"The Dornier 328 demonstrates a combination of technology, power and performance. It has a maximum cruise speed of 620 kilometers per hour and a maximum altitude of 31,000 feet, permitting us to climb above most weather systems that affect our area and thereby allows for smoother flights. It also has exceptional take-off and landing performance, allowing our pilots to operate safely on relatively short runways," revealed Iren Dornier, chair, South East Asian Airlines. "With the Dornier 328 as the latest addition to our fleet, SEAIR is leveraging its position as the most modern aircraft fleet operator in our segment of the industry. No other aircraft can be considered a serious contender to the Dornier 328 in the same size category."

The Dornier 328 planes will soon be used to service its established routes such as Clark to Cebu, Manila to Busuanga and Puerto Princesa, and various routes in the Visayas islands. SEAIR has also announced that it will be acquiring at least two more Dornier 328 planes in the latter half of 2005 as part of its expansion plans. In the pipeline are new routes to some of the Philippines' beautiful and remote destinations including Basco, Batanes in the northernmost part of the country.

The airline is riding high on the Philippines' improving tourism industry, with foreign visitors (mostly Koreans, Chinese, and Europeans) taking up to 40 percent of SEAIR's market and a steady influx of local tourists to the country's most popular destinations. According to Patrick Tan, vice president of commercial affairs for South East Asian Airlines, the Philippines is experiencing a 15-percent increase in tourism this year. And as part of the airline's commitment to the burgeoning Korean market, SEAIR is starting a Basic Korean language training program for its front line personnel.

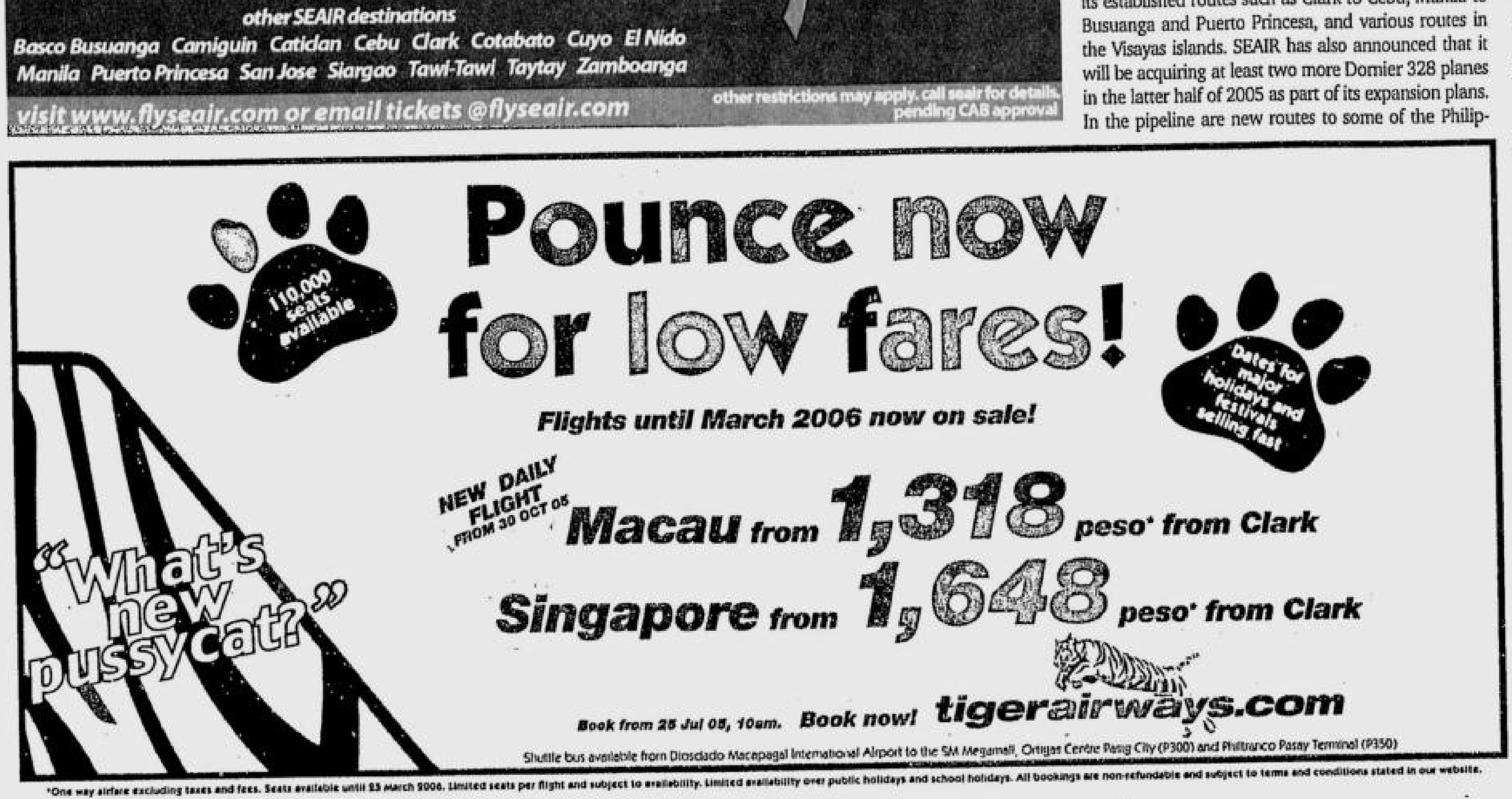
To cater to foreign tourists, vacationing students, and to those who simply plan on an island-hopping spree around the country, SEAIR has recently introduced its privilege card-the SEAIR Adventure Pass. This card entitles the bearer to an unlimited number of domestic flights on any regular SEAIR route. The Adventure Pass is priced at P16,500 (approximately US $295) and is valid for 45 days from date of purchase. As an added treat, the Adventure Pass automatically entitles the card bearer to future promos and packages from SEAIR and its partners and affiliates.

SEAIR now flies to 20 local tourist destinations, which include Camiguin; Caticlan (Boracay); Clark; Cotabato; Busuanga, Cuyo, El Nido, Puerto Princesa and Taytay (Palawan); San Jose (Occidental Mindoro); Siargao; Zamboanga; Jolo; and Tawi-Tawi.

In its ten years of operation, SEAIR has grown from a once-a-day air transport company flying to resorts in Boracay and Palawan to become the official flag carrier of 20 local tourist destinations. It is the first domestic airline company to establish headquarters in the Clark Special Economic Zone, Angeles City, Pampanga. The company has also recently been awarded the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management certification for excellently complying with international quality management standards.

SEAIR aims to bridge the Philippine islands via air by offering secondary feeder routes to complement the

SEAIR / B2-6



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Tiger Airways expands Pan-Regional route

TIGER Airways, Singapore's low fare airline, has announced its first route between points outside of Singapore connecting the Philippines and Macau with daily flights starting Oct. 30. This makes Tiger Airways the first low fare airline to link the two points.

"This link between Macau and Manila (Clark) is a significant milestone for our airline as we gear up to our next phase of expansion. We have gone out and looked for new opportunities to provide our low fares to a larger number of passengers by linking our successful operations to Macau and Manila (Clark)," said Tony Davis, CEO Tiger Airways. "The new service will allow us to carry more than 100,000 passengers a year between the two points, bringing socio-economic benefits

TIGER/B2-6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS*Friday*

Phone firm banks on great design

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

WHILE it continues to bank on its philosophy that there is simply no compromising on its handset designs, telecom giant Motorola Inc. is trying another tack in the Philippines, one of its identified markets for growth.

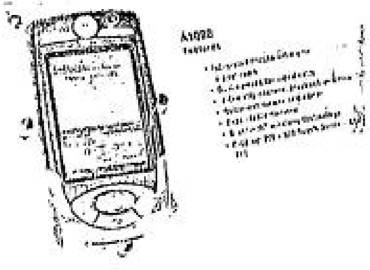
MARKETING STRATEGY

"How do we take the design language, the core features and drive it down to lower tier phones. That is the reality of our business," Neil Stewart, marketing director for Motorola, said.

Stewart said the delicate balance lies in putting advanced features in affordable phones, without compromising the look.

"What we can do from a design perspective is that when someone puts our phone down, it doesn't scream cheap, cheap, cheap. It has to be a good-looking phone. Take the C117 in the Philippines. It doesn't have all the fancy stuff, but you can talk forever and ever and you can leave it on chat for days. That's the strategy we are going to continue, we will have products that are well-designed and well-made," Stewart said.

The C117 costs around $40 and is slightly bigger than a credit card. But don't underestimate its size. This phone has superior battery life, which has an estimated talk time of up to 348 to 633 minutes and standby time of up to 155 to 340 hours.



Its features also include a calculator, alarm clock, currency converter and SMS capabilities.

Stewart said the challenge for Motorola in the Philippines is that the country has a small group of affluent people who are willing to pay for the cutting-edge, most expensive and most beautiful phones, leaving a bigger market where that is not exactly an option.

"I think some of our other products will take the look of the candy bar in a RAZR format but the price is a little bit lower (will be the strategy). Design is still very important to us," Stewart said.

Motorola calls its rectangular shape handsets, the "candy bar," which has not lost its sweetness on the Filipino texter, despite the onslaught of new flip-top, slide or clamshell types.

Motorola says it is introducing new designs that takes the candy bar look, but is packed with features like its award-winning super slim RAZR design.

Take the V280, for example, which is priced at around $200.

The V280 features a glass display, flat illuminated keypad, high polish chrome sideband with a chameleon character, a Di-

PHONE/ B2-4

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A cornerstone of Insular Life's financial stability is its strong asset base which has consistently increased through the years reaching P41.4 billion in 2004. Its premium income of P7.3 billion and business-in-force of P191.4 billion reflects a growing number of policyholders. In 2004, the Company paid a total of P3.9 billion in benefits to policyholders. It earned a net income of P1.06 billion, the first Filipino life insurance company to break the billion-peso mark. It remains to be the only Filipino life insurance company in the top five life insurance companies in the country.

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Insular Life has over 100 branches located in key cities all over the country that provides all types of policy servicing to clients. Premium payment has also been made easier with the use of more convenient payment facilities such as automated teller machines, credit cards, the internet, Smart Money and through several of Insular Life's affiliate banks. It has 3,000 professional sales agents and sales managers who are among the best insurance professionals in the industry.

In 2005, The Reader's Digest Super-Brand Awards conferred the Superbrand Gold Award to Insular Life for having earned consumers' nod in five key brand values: Quality, Value, Trustworthiness, Strong Image and Understanding of Customer Needs. A SuperBrand seal is a genuine recognition of consistent outstanding quality in the eyes of the consumer. The SuperBrand research reflects the consumers choice of outstanding products - the brands they believe in and trust.

As the company looks forward to its 100th year, its focus remains the same: to continuously build its financial strength to fulfill its obligations to its policyholders, at the same time, provide better products and services to answer the needs of more and more Filipinos.

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Health reforms to boost medical transcription industry

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Health reforms that will modernize the country's medical industry have been snagged by virulent debates over a proposal to make medical malpractice a criminal offense.

But buried by all the talk are some regulations that could start a new job wave from digital technology, similar to the one generated by call centers in the country.

Pilipinas Data Contracts Corp., a Baguio-based digital firm, describes this potential industry as "evidence medicine," or what the trade calls "medical transcriptions."

Saving information

PDCC and 26 other medical transcription firms in the country ensure the confidentiality of patients' medical information on an Internet-based or institution-linked central data bank for doctors and patients abroad, says Ludwig John Pascual, PDCC president and chief executive officer.

Pascual says the Medical Transcription Industry Association of the Philippines managed to convince lawmakers in January to pursue a measure requiring doctors to secure medical information in a central data storehouse.

On the surface, ordinary Filipinos may gloss over the importance of medical information because measures ensuring the security of these types of personal data have yet to rise out of the debate on medical malpractice.

"Our medical practice does not require mandatory digitizing of medical information," Pascual says.

"So if you get sick and are hospitalized in Davao City, you can't secure your own medical records from your previous hospital [in Metro Manila]. You'll need to search for your doctor [who files his patients' records inside his office's cabinets]."

He says many doctors now upload their patients' information in their personal computers.

But important medical information must be immediately available to patients and must therefore be stored and secured in the Internet or on modem-linked records kept by government agencies, he says.

"A law [protecting medical information on the Web] is important for this stage of the transcription market because our [offshore] clients need to be assured that Philippine-based firms can be held liable locally should they break confidentiality," Pascual says.

He cites the case of a Pakistani doctor who was not paid by a California hospital for transcription work, and who retaliated by releasing the medical information on the Internet.

Asian firms took the brunt of the fallout from this issue because the US Congress almost banned outsourcing for medical data transcription, he says.

Hospitals leading way

Local hospitals have taken a crack at digital data banking.

The Philippine Heart Center and some modern hospitals in Mindanao have started transcribing and securing their hospital records in digital warehouses, although the trend has not yet drawn more advocates.

Pascual says the slow pace could be attributed to the fact that few doctors use computers and even fewer specialists have personal access to the Internet.

DEMAND for medical transcription centers is growing at the same pace as call centers. EV ESPIRITU

Dr. Ma. Corazon Colyong, a former government doctor hired as PDCC training director, says the profession could only guarantee five years' worth of a patient's medical records.

She says some doctors eventually lose track of these documents because of the volume, so they resort to compressing these records to a minimum to free up storage space.

Medical information is far less relevant to patients in the provinces where people secure medical attention only when "the need becomes critical," she says.

Young industry

Medical transcription is a fairly young federal regulation in the US, which contracts out its data compilers to PDCC and other Philippine firms, Pascual says.

Their federal government instituted a law only in 1996.

Pascual says local companies began to sprout in the Philippines in 1998, evolving at a pace similar to the development of call centers.

Their employees are required to have extensive training in medical language and basic biological knowledge to guarantee efficiency.

Pascual says the trade provides unemployed medical professionals a new career, and could stem the tide of jobless doctors and nurses leaving the country.

Pascual projects a boom for medical transcription because it is following the call center formula in building up a Philippine market.

"There was no call center industry [when the first call centers began]," he says.

The fledgling medical transcription trade is dominated by small and medium-scale enterprises. PDCC is a 35-man operation that services one- to three-year contracts from abroad.

A typical contract provides a 6 US cent revenue per line, translating to P1,000 a day for a transcriptionist, Pascual says.

Phone firm banks . . .

From page B2-3

amond Dust body and metallic-like finishes. Like the RAZR, it is super slim.

It also has an integrated 4x zoom VGA digital camera, video capture and playback and multimedia photo album creation tools.

The jet black Motorola RAZR V3 is a special edition of the company's award winning RAZR V3 design.

Award winning model

It is one of the slimmest phones on the market, yet rich in functions such as MPEG4 video record and playback, connectivity with Bluetooth and GSM quad-band global roaming.

Motorola reaped the best mobile phone design in Singapore's latest AsianMobile News Awards for this model.

Another candy bar model is the C157 which promises to satisfy today's practical on-the-go consumer. It offers a vivid color display, enhanced messaging service and downloading capabilities.

With up to 259 to 412 minutes of talk time and 157 to 313 hours of standby time, it lets users chat and text without having to worry about their phones conking out.

Wide screens, keypads

But while candy bar phones are still very popular in the Philippines, Stewart said most people still want the same things, regardless of the phone's shape—a wide screen and a good-sized keypad.

"I think we have seen, whether it is the movement from candy bar to flip phones, to clam phones or slide phones, people want bigger screens, they don't want to compromise a big screen for games or what have you. In the candy bar version, we didn't want to compromise on the screen but had to compromise a little on the keypad, otherwise the phone is going to get big. The other thing is you don't want screens to be scratched so the clam is getting popular. Hopefully a lot of Filipinos will buy them," Stewart said.

Among its clamshell handsets for launch in the second half is the PEBL V6.

Like its namesake, the PEBL V6 is round and smooth, housed in a unique clamshell design with a dual-hinge mechanism to open and close the device using one hand.

PEBL is a tri-band phone with an integrated Bluetooth wireless technology and VGA camera.

Weighing 110 grams, it has talk time of 204 to 400 minutes and standby time up to 156 to 250 hours.

Funk also seems to define most Motorola handsets.

Ever heard of a phone that farts, coughs, belches or cries like a baby?

The Motorola E398, hijacked by popular music television channel MTV, delivers what Motorola calls a "rebellious" mobile experience that rewrites rules for ringtones, alerts, screensavers, SMS or MMS templates and wallpapers.

It comes with a host of preloaded wallpapers, screensavers, phonebook Idsand MMS animations with in-your-face characters and offbeat illustrations.

Sound experience

Also, 3D stereo surround sound speakers provide intense sound experience.

It also has a sharp color screen where MPEG4 video clips will never look fuzzy.

The Motorola 398 is also packed with Bluetooth wireless technology.

Also banking on the music and entertainment platform is E680i.

It is a bundle of features that include Bluetooth stereo headset support, two hours video playback, storage capacity for songs and video, a 3D gaming machine, an FM radio and 3D stereo surround speakers.

With over two gigabytes of optional memory, this phone allows music and multimedia lovers to transfer, store, catalog and enjoy their files on the go.

The handset can also support MP3 video formats, MIDI, WAV sound and music formats among others. It also comes with one of the world's first Bluetooth wireless stereo headsets, the HT820 Bluetooth stereo headset.

Other sleek designs include the SLVR V8, which is equipped with enhanced data for global evolution (EDGE) technology for wireless modem capabilities and fast Internet access.

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Manufacturer sees digital, mobile future

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SINGAPORE—A peek into the future will show significantly more executives and rank-and-file employees sending and receiving e-mails through wireless devices, such as mobile phones. And this bodes well for their companies.

Paul Blinkhorn, vice president for Asia Pacific of leading wireless devices manufacturer Palm Inc., said in a recent presentation here that with the proliferation of mobile phones powerful enough to function like desktop computers and could be carried around, people—particularly executives—could conduct their businesses while on the go.

Thus, the five minutes of waiting for a meeting to start, or the seven minutes spent standing in line for coffee, and the 30 minutes spent waiting for a flight to be called are used more productively.

With powerful wireless devices, down time becomes "found time," Blinkhorn said.

All this found time translates into significant productivity gains for a company, Blinkhorn said.

Palm figures presented here showed that because people were able to work even outside the office, a company could squeeze out $1,000 worth of manpower for every 10 minutes that an employee with an annual salary of $50,000 spends working on his mobile phone or other wireless device.

The manpower contribution becomes even more significant when computed using the executives' salaries.

A middle-manager with a salary of $100,000 a year, for instance, translates 75 minutes of downtime into "found time" worth $15,000, just because he can do conferencing, check and send e-mails or work on his presentations using his phone.

Before the entry of these powerful phones in the market, these employees and executives would not have been able to do anything the moment they step out of their office.

This won't do these days when employees and executives are spending more time either traveling or meeting or doing client calls outside the office.

IDC data showed that 40 percent of workers now travel for business, and that this would rise to 75 percent by the end of next year.

Gartner data showed the same trend, estimating that the number of mobile professionals worldwide would likely grow to 41.1 million by 2007.

Although only 8 percent use mobile e-mail today, the number will go up to 21 percent by the end of next year.

Blinkhorn, thus, said that with this trend, more companies are investing in wireless devices to realize the potential increase in business and personal productivity.

And the killer application is wireless e-mail.

Blinkhorn said that with the widespread use of wireless e-mail, companies do not need to install as many desktop computers since the phone will do. There is also lower downtime since employees are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

BLINKHORN

"There's the soft return on investment," he said, "like customer satisfaction and improved communication. You are also able to keep things moving."

Blinkhorn said the demand for these powerful mobile devices explained the growth in the sales of Palm's Treo 650, its flagship wireless phone that combines the features of a mobile phone, personal digital assistant and e-mail device in just one phone.

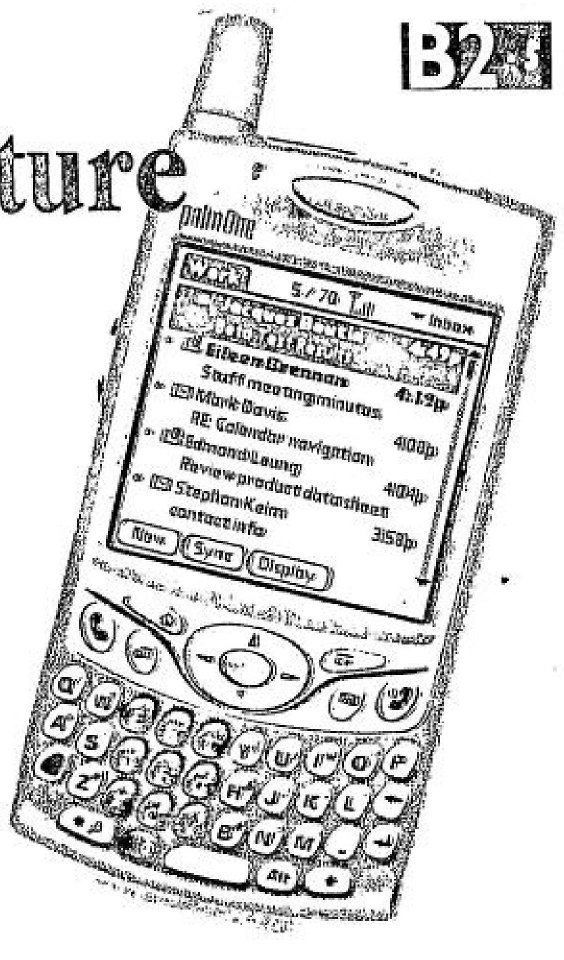
He said phones of the future would be along the same line—with combined different features in just one device, since it is not practical to carry around three different devices to do three different things.

Called smart phones, it was estimated that there would be 100 million converged mobile devices by 2008, a compounded annual growth rate of 47 percent from 2004 to 2008.

Blinkhorn said Palm was looking at positioning itself firmly in this growing market, with more smart phones in the pipeline.

For Palm, convergence is the only way to go.

PALM'S Treo 650



Wal-Mart hopes 'green' store brings in dollars

MCKINNEY, Texas–The 120-foot wind turbine in the Wal-Mart parking lot is the first clue that this won't be your typical superstore shopping experience.

Then there are the photovoltaic solar panels, which look like a band of blue tiles running the length of the store front, and the vaulted glass-ceiling entryways made up of thin, clear solar panels encased in glass.

Welcome to Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s experimental environmentally friendly store in this northern suburb of Dallas, where the world's biggest—and notoriously cost-conscious—retailer is trying to determine whether being green can also be profitable.

Wal-Mart's rapid expansion has long been opposed by green groups who say that the hundreds of new stores opened each year cover thousands of acres of green space with concrete. Wal-Mart hopes this store will placate critics as well as save money.

"We're going to see if the energy savings are there," said Don Moseley, head of experimental projects for Wal-Mart. "We expect some things to fail."

The results remain to be seen at its test store, which opened for business recently.

Walk in and you'll find the familiar assortment of fresh produce alongside low-priced clothing, diapers and tires.

But then there's the grid of white fabric ductwork—or "Duct Sox"—suspended 11 feet above the floor, and the black tubing around the frozen food sections that recycles the hot air generated by the refrigerators.

Moseley said the low-hanging ductwork will cut energy costs because it heats or cools only the lower 11 feet of the store, unlike ceiling-mounted ventilation systems that need to push air at least twice as far.

Wal-Mart estimates it will save enough electricity to power 70 single-family homes for a year.

The 120-foot, 50-kilowatt wind turbine in front of the store has a 46-foot diameter rotor and cuts the store's electricity consumption by 5 percent, Wal-Mart said. *Reuters*

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Award-winning Singapore film at The Podium

MALLGOERS at The Podium will have the rare opportunity to watch the internationally acclaimed Singapore film "Homerun" on July 30 and 31 at the mall's Cinema 1. Both screenings will take place at 1:30 p.m.

These special screenings will be part of the celebration of the 40th Singapore National Day, and are a joint project of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore and The Podium, in cooperation with Smart Communications.

Directed by Jack Neo, one of Singapore's most prolific filmmakers, "Homerun" was the 2003 Grand Prix winner in the Moscow International Festival for Children and Youth, and more recently received the People's Choice Award for the 2005 Montreal International Children's Film Festival. In 2003, it received honors for best new performer in Taiwan's 40th Golden Horse Awards, and the Cifej Prize in the 14th Cairo International Film Festival for Children. The following year, it was awarded the Golden Butterfly Prize for best direction in the 19th Istahan International Film Festival and Video; as well as the Young Jury Award Youth International Film Festival in Madrid.

"Homerun" is a remake of the movie "Children of Heaven", which earned an Academy Award nomination for best foreign film in 1998. Set in 1965 before Singapore gained independence from the Federation of Malaysia, it tells the story of an impoverished boy and his sister who are thrust into difficult circumstances over a pair of missing shoes. Against a backdrop of economic hardship and political uncertainty, it is the purity and innocence of childhood and the power of love in the family that ultimately shine through.

With the birth of a nation as a historical backdrop, director Neo hoped to take the story of "Children of Heaven" a step further by making the movie in Chinese so that more people would be touched by the beauty and simplicity of the story. Significantly, Neo-who holds the record for making Singapore's three top-grossing films "Money No Enough", "The Movie", and "I Not Stupid"-is also the film's storyteller, screenwriter, and director.

The screening of "Homerun" is one of the events held in Manila to celebrate the 40th Singapore National Day. Through the efforts of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore, the movie hopes to show the similarities in the values upheld by Singaporeans and Filipinos, the power of love in the family, as well as to enhance the dynamic relationship between the two countries.

"Homerun" is a project of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore and The Podium, in cooperation with Smart Communications. The event is also made possible by Lolo Mao, Jam 88.3 and Wave 89.1.

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed Singaporean film 'Homerun' will be shown at The Podium Cinema 1 July 30 and 31.

Therapharma celebrates losartan's first year

THERAPHARMA, a division of United Laboratories (Unilab), will be celebrating the first anniversary of its antihypertensive medicine losartan on today, July 29. The celebration will be Therapharma's way of thanking all the people who supported its product for a year, particularly the doctors and their patients.

Losartan, which belongs to the angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARB) class of drugs, is becoming a more popular option for hypertension because of its safety profile and cost effectiveness.

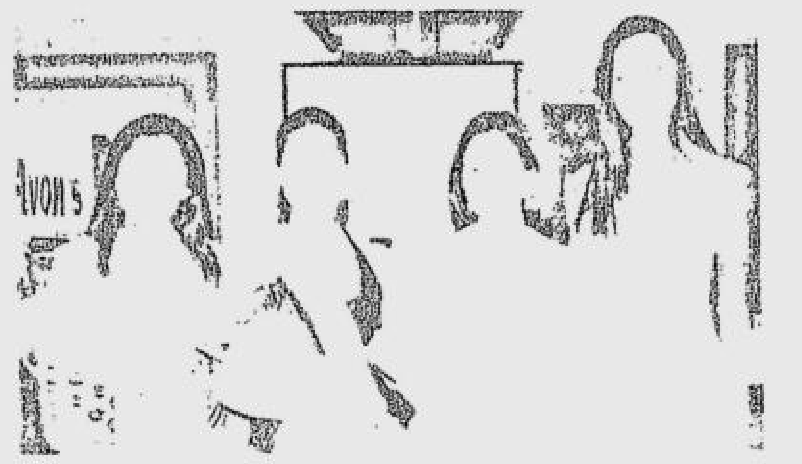
The ARBs, a newer class of anti-hypertensive drugs, has gained popularity over the past few years. The safety profile and potent effects of ARBs, as shown in various clinical trials, has made this popular class of drugs as a major treatment option for hypertension.

"The benefits in the trials of ARB-based regimens are greater than those expected given the reduction in the blood pressure compared to ACE inhibitors. It also reduces the cardiovascular events just as much," said Dr. Esperanza Cabral, past president of Philippine Society of Hypertension.

Aside from its health benefits, Therapharma's brand of losartan is easy on the pocket. The price of Therapharma's 50 mg losartan is relatively inexpensive by as much as 50 percent compared to other brands.

"These savings to individual patients mean savings to society. All these savings go back ultimately to the patients," said Cabral. The introduction of losartan has benefited an estimated 18, 000 patients with blood pressure control within one year, she added.

Providing Filipinos with quality and affordable medicines is part of Therapharma and Unilab's commitment to provide quality health care at no extra cost, as embodied in their tagline "*Gamot na umuubra sa presyong di sobra.*"

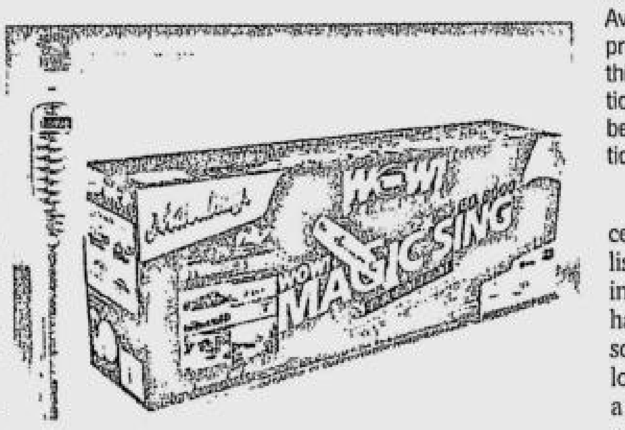

AVON'S BEVY OF BEAUTIES

Global beauty company Avon's nationwide search for the first-ever Miss Avon continues to unveil the country's prettiest faces. Since its launch early this year, the response from the nation's beauty queen wannabes has been overwhelming. After the elimination rounds in Avon's branches nationwide, the search will culminate with the coronation night in August when 22 finalists will vie for the coveted Miss Avon crown. Shown are the triumphant finalists from Avon's Taft branch joined by Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Gionna Cabrera (right) during the awarding ceremonies.

A cut above the rest

IN-A-JIFFY Enterprises, recognized as a trail blazer in the marketing and distribution of videoke microphones in the country, has taken home entertainment to another level with the introduction of its WOW Magic Sing Premium Mabuhay 2005 Edition.

Mabuhay 2005 Edition enables users to experience top-of-the-line features, which include: new two-toned ergonomic microphone design (enables user to have a better grip while at the same time preventing buttons from being accidentally pressed); external video source (allows you substantial use of your VCD, DVD, and video camera. The microphone's built-in picture background can now be replaced with your favorite movies or watch yourself singing with the use of a videocam); 4-song chip slots; USB function (connects to any PC to download or upload recorded songs using a recording chip); you can send your recordings via e-mail and share with other WOW Magic Sing Premium users; detachable FM transmitter; user-friendly operating system (numbers alongside functions are displayed on screen after pressing mode button, immediately giving you access to its innovative features).



The Mabuhay 2005 Edition still maintains its standard features such as: 61 built-in WOW Philippines scenic backgrounds images; real-time scoring; adjustable lyric display; song select repeat, and; first lyric line display-on browse for added enjoyment and convenience; amateur, professional or star singer scoring level that fits your singing ability. Plus, you can also change the voice style from male to female version and vice versa. 793 built-in licensed songs plus on-screen song list is set-up alphabetically according to artist, which means no more hassle selecting your particular song. In addition, you get the following freebies whenever you buy a Mabuhay 2005 Edition such as: neckphone, mic stand, full color guide to the 61 WOW Philippines picture backgrounds and a copy of the "Sing Through the Philippines" VCD, plus additional seven bonus songs in its song-chip.

Mabuhay 2005 Edition is exclusively distributed by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises and G2K Corp, and is available at all branches of Abenson, Odyssey, Astro Vision, Automatic Center. For more information, call 285-2663, 722-5527 or log on to www.wowmagicsing.com or www.magicmic.com.

Bits Clips

Top baristas compete

MABELYN Ignacio of the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf at the Promenade recently won the right to represent the Philippines in the coming Regional Barista Finals in Malaysia on Aug. 1. She is expected to battle it out for the top plum with representatives from 10 Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Lhyn won over the panel of judges with her own concoction of "Minty Oh!", a unique combination of orange, mint candy and espresso. For more information about the competition and the innovative concoctions from Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, log on to www.coffeebean.com.

PCS '74 reunion

THE CLASS of 1974 of Paco Catholic School will hold a grand reunion on July 30 at batchmate Ariel Sunico's residence at L2 B10 Earth Street, Mapayapa Village, Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas City. A meaningful evening of fun awaits those who will attend the gathering to celebrate the batch's 31st anniversary. PCS teachers are also invited to the affair. For details, call Teddy S. Pereña at 894-3576, Marian Romano at 0917-8463965, Embong Casal Dacumos at 809-0153, or Ferdie Raquel Santos at 0918-9016947.

Chamber Choir tilt

SINGAPORE Tourism Board-Philippines invites all talented choir groups to join the Empress Chamber Choir Competition, an international choral singing contest that will showcase the world's finest talents performing timeless classical compositions. Empress Chamber Choir Competition aims to create an ideal venue for sharing of musical traditions from different cultures. Participating choirs must be composed of 16 to 40 amateur singers. To join the competition, choirs must accomplish the application forms available at the Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines office or in the Empress Place Attractions website (www.empressplace.org.sg). Deadline for submission of entries is on Aug. 1. For more information, call STB-P at 813-0946.

Easy English seminars

CORBAN Daycare and Tutorial Center is slating a new series of Easy English seminars every Saturday and/or Sunday, starting July 30 and 31, from 2 to 5 p.m. The course is for students, housewives and professionals. This is a comprehensive package of conversation, grammar and writing. Interested parties can call Corban at 842-6665, 809-3050 or 0917-6297718.

July at MCS

THE MCS Commercial Complex (Makati Cinema Square) along A. Arnaiz and C. Roces Streets in Makati celebrates July with an array of mind-blowing and rib-tickling events. Bargain hunters are in for a treat on July 29, 30 and 31 for the mall's "Crazy Sale". The sale event features mind-blowing discounts and freebies from bargain stores, service centers and fast food outlets. A rib-tickling show dubbed "Comedy Rumble" will feature the comedic act of sing along masters from various comic bars on July 29 and 30. Both shows will be at the Atrium stage of MCS Commercial Complex.

Filipino Mission Sunday

THE WHOLE Catholic Church in the Philippines will celebrate the annual Filipino Mission Sunday on July 31. On this occasion, the Catholic faithful will thank the Lord for the gift of faith received through the efforts of the missionaries in the past. It will also be a time to pray for all our Filipino missionaries, especially the members of the Mission Society of the Philippines (MSP) being the standard bearer of the Catholic Church of the Philippines for foreign mission work. This year, MSP is celebrating its 40th Foundation Anniversary with the theme "MSP@40: Growing in its Mission to the World". Rev. Fr. Socrates C. Mesiona, MSP, Father Moderator, on behalf of the whole MSP community, expresses profound gratitude for the support of the many people and institutions, especially through the sharing of valuable resources, which have contributed significantly to the MSP's growth and stability.

Outstanding Filipina

NINA Teresa Lucero-Talao, daughter of the late Antonio Talao Jr of De La Salle University Batch '74 and Maritess Lucero Briones, recently completed her master's degree in management at St. Peter's College in Jersey City and is included in the 2002-2003 edition of the National Dean's List. The granddaughter of Lucio Tan Group of Companies' strategic management consultant engineer Antonio Talao Sr, Nina was named Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, is a member of Delta Mu Delta Honor Society and president of the Tae Kwon Do Society. She graduated cum laude from New Jersey City University in 2000. Presently, Lucero-Talao is employed as a senior sales compensation associate with Prudentialife in Livingston.

NINA TERESA Lucero-Talao

Bazaar madness

SPICE up your weekend with the exciting bargain finds at "Shop@LePav" July 30 and 31 at Le Pavillion, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Enjoy a leisurely shopping experience with the latest items from the country's top exporters. It's bargain shopping at its finest. "Shop@LePav" also carries homemade deli items like pate, pasta sauces, spread, naked goodies. The bazaar is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Disney's Journo Squad

THE REGIONAL search is on for Disney Channel's Junior Journo Squad who will be given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go on assignment at the grand opening of Hong Kong Disneyland on Sept. 12. Five lucky and talented star reporters from across Southeast Asia and Korea will become the eyes and ears of Disney Channel viewers as they share the buzz on all the exciting rides at the park, a sneak peek on all the interesting shows and parades. To join, aspiring news hounds need to tell Disney Channel why they are the number one Disney Channel fan in 500 words or less. Entries will be accepted from 11 Asian markets. The contest is open to children 7 to 14 years old. Deadline of entries is July 31. To find out more, log on to www.disneychannel-asia.com/DisneyChannel/interact/onassignment.

Mexican Fun Night

OLE! THE Sulo Hotel presents "Fun Night at the Diwata Cocktail Lounge" at the basement level. The theme for the much-awaited party is "Mexican". On July 30 at 7 p.m., the night begins with live performances, fun and excitement, 25-percent discount on premium drinks plus drink-all-you-can on standard drinks. Tempting special awards and prizes await as incredible games await all. Tickets are available in all restaurant outlets for P1000. Strategically located, The Sulo Hotel offers no traffic on the way and has a secure and spacious parking lot. For inquiries, call 924-5051, or visit The Sulo Hotel along Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Food business seminar

MB&G/PROACTIVE is now accepting reservations for the "Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop" slated for Aug. 1 to 5 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Restaurateurs, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators and those planning to open their own foodservice business now have a chance to hone their skills. For details, call Manu Ofiaza at 687-1787 or 0915-4315375. Seminar fee is inclusive of manual and handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials and equipment. The five-day training will cover topics as planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment, hygiene and sanitation, human resource development, and cost control.

Joaquin Cunanan & Co's new name

JOAQUIN Cunanan & Co, the Philippine member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers, announces its new trade name Isla Lipana & Co effective July 2005. The new name is derived from the surnames of the accounting firm's two more senior partners, chair and senior partner Jerry S. Isla and managing tax partner Tammy H. Lipana. In its 83 years of history, Isla Lipana & Co has developed professional knowledge in various industries, giving its clients seasoned advice to help them stand out in the market, as they are guided by their core values of excellence, teamwork, and leadership. Isla Lipana & Co will continue to be a member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited, one of the world's leading accounting firms known for its "Connected Thinking".

Tiger Airways expands Pan-Regional route network

From page B2-2

to the region with both increased tourist and business travel."

The new low fare service between Macau and the Philippines is a boon for travelers looking for low fare flights with safe and punctual service between the two points. Tiger Airways is confident that there is demand for its low fare flights not only from tourists between both points, but also from the many Overseas Filipino Workers based in Macau and Hong Kong.

Tiger Airways will also increase its direct services between Singapore and the Philippines to 10 round trip services a week, starting from July 30; in addition to the expansion of its network between Macau and Manila (Clark) from Oct. 30.

Tiger Airways will operate daily flights between Singapore and Manila and increase to two flights a day on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. With 10 flights each week, Tiger Airways establishes itself firmly as the largest provider of low fare flights between Singapore and the Philippines.

"We are delighted to be offering the most low fare flights between the Philippines and Singapore. The demand for our low fares has been overwhelming since we started this route in April this year with repeated calls for more flight services. Now with 10 flights a week, we are pleased to be able to offer more low fare flights for more people to travel," said Davis. "Our additional flights are now on sale at www.tigerairways.com. Savvy passengers should book early to enjoy the lowest fares."

Fleet specifications:

Four Airbus A320 aircraft, all powered by International Aero Engines (IAE) V2500 engines, a modern jet engine with proven track record of reliability and efficiency • Tiger Airways uses a single aircraft type for operational efficiencies which lowers cost • Tiger Airways A320 aircraft have a single-class configuration of 180 seats • Tiger Airways aims to have one of the newest fleets among the low cost carriers • Tiger Airways purchased 8 new A320 aircraft from Airbus and will take delivery of 2 aircraft in March 2006, 3 more aircraft in Winter 06 and 3 more aircraft in Summer 07.

Safety:

Tiger Airways has committed S$110 million for a 5-year maintenance contract with SIA Engineering • 24-hour Fleet Technical Management and provision of maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services by SIA Engineering • Our aircraft maintenance program satisfies the safety standards required by Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) • Our pilots are trained inline with industry standards and aviation regulations to ensure the highest safety standards are met • Our cabin crew are all trained and qualified on evacuation procedures and drills, fire fighting, security, survival training, first aid, use of emergency equipment in preparation to handle any situation

Security:

Bullet-proof cockpit doors installed across its fleet • Security cameras installed in passenger cabin for customer and crew safety

SeaAir offers fastest...

From page B2-2

trunk line routes serviced by other major players in the domestic airline industry. Aside from local expansion, SEAIR is positioning itself to enter the international market after its appointment as one of the official carriers for the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia, Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) region.

For inquiries and reservations, please call SEAIR Makati at + 632 884-1521 or SEAIR Cebu at + 632 341-4879.

Group puts new spin to virgin coconut oil

By Amy R. Remo

THE GROWING popularity of virgin coconut oil and its "healing properties" has prompted many entrepreneurs to concoct their own versions of the famed product.

With over 100 variants available in the market, Gil V. Obias, president of Elixirs Pacific International Corp., says it would take more than just a label for your virgin coconut oil to stand out.

"You have to be as innovative as possible, and ensure that you'll be able to produce premium-grade virgin coconut oil," Obias says.

Started in 2003, EPiC was put up by a group of retired IT professionals, engineers, farm owners and a doctor—all of whom found a common interest in the medicinal and healing properties of the so-called "miracle oil."

Located in Tanuan, Batangas, its world class plant aims to produce the freshest virgin coconut oils through a combination of several existing technologies that has now become uniquely theirs-the C-VAP Technology.

EPiC came up with the C-VAP through in-house research, development activities and training given by the Department of Science and Technology.

Obias explains that C-VAP involves two processes: mechanical centrifuge for oil and water separation; and vacuum evaporation for drying.

C-VAP advantage

And it is this C-VAP, according to Obias, that sets them apart from other virgin coconut oil makers, because in terms of its physical properties, EPiC's virgin coconut oil clearly has an advantage over its competitors.

"Unlike certain brands, EPiC virgin coconut oil has no fermented smell, sticky taste and feel," says Obias.

He adds that these twin technologies allow EPiC to avoid the drying of the coconut meat, and to quickly extract oil from the coconut milk without heat, avoiding prolonged settling and fermentation.

Another advantage of C-VAP is that it removes moisture content faster, resulting in an extended shelf life of up to one year upon the opening of the bottle, thus avoiding rapid rancidity or spoilage.

Also, C-VAP cuts the production cycle since the production process, and minimizes contamination and errors in producing virgin coconut oil.

Since the use of C-VAP cuts the virgin coconut oil production time from 12 hours to just two to three hours from the time the coconuts are cracked, its products are the freshest in the market.

Zero waste production

Aside from producing fresh and high-quality virgin coconut oil, EPiC is environment-friendly as well.

"Although we are only producing virgin coconut oils right now, we have designed our facilities to be zero-waste, multi-product-line plants," says Obias. "We are still evaluating the recovery and processing of healthy and nutritious products."

Examples of these include ready-to-drink skim milk, coco flour from pressed meal "sapal" and charcoal.

And since the plant is designed to be highly efficient and world-class, production can go beyond the traditional home-scale or small-scale production.

"Right now, our plant has the capacity to produce three metric tons of virgin coconut oil a month, utilizing about 60,000 coconuts each time," says Obias. "But we are exporting only an average of 500 liters quarterly to Canada and the United States."

Locally, the EPiC oil is available only through delivery, with each 300 ml bottle costing around P300.

Aside from becoming waste-free in the near future, EPiC also plans to increase its capacity to 10 metric tons a month from the current 3 metric tons.

It also offers C-VAP Technology Licensing-which is similar to franchising-to interested investors to meet local and international market demand.

Cooperative effort

Obias explains that despite the proliferation of numerous brands and varieties of the virgin coconut oil, he believes that there is still a huge untapped market here and abroad.

"According to plant visits and referrals from the Department of Trade and Industry and CITEM, there is a market demand of about 30 to 50 metric tons a month for virgin coconut oil in countries like US, Canada, Malaysia and Korea," says Obias.

This is why, Obias adds, there has to be a cooperative effort among all virgin coconut oil manufacturers and producers to successfully capture both local and foreign markets.

"Our main advocacy now is to support the VCO Association's vision, which is for the Philippines to become the No.1 source of the best quality virgin coconut oil. And I believe we are on the right track," says Obias.

OBIAS says cooperative effort is needed to capture huge market abroad

EPiC's vacuum evaporator is used to take out moisture from the coconuts

Imagine yourself in the future. Penniless.

We can't.
That's why Insular Life offers you I-Fund.

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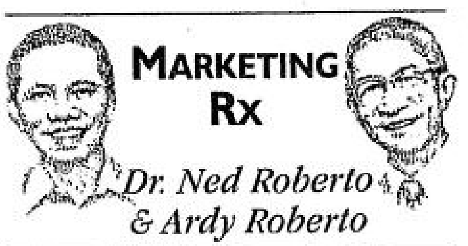
Brochures and mailers as advertising media



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

QUESTION: I'm an entrepreneur running two small businesses. I manage a real property sales agency for property developers in the Cavite area, and I also own a semi-fine dining restaurant in the Festival Mall that my wife operates and manages.

My wife tells me that our restaurant is not getting the steady flow of customers that will get us to our target bottom line after two years of operation. My real property sales agency is experiencing the same thing.

I recently attended a marketing seminar where one of the speakers told me that I should advertise. Honestly, I didn't feel I could take his advice because my businesses are small. What I've gotten used to is sending out brochures and mailers.

What's the right and most cost-effective medium I can use to reach my customers?

Answer: If that speaker is talking about advertising in the traditional media of TV, radio or print, then you are most probably right. Your two small businesses won't be able to cope with the required budget. More importantly, there's a mismatch between this communication means with the small magnitude or size of your targeted communication task.

But if he was referring to a direct response ad media, such as mailing to selected customers in your database (if you have one), then this is not such a bad advice.

Help from Bird

To answer your question, we've again asked help from Drayton Bird.

As we mentioned in our column two weeks ago, Bird has personally worked with advertising legends like Leo Burnett as his creative group head, and later on with David Ogilvy as his vice chair and worldwide creative director of Ogilvy & Mather Direct.

Since Bird will be flying (pun intended) to Manila this August, we are taking advantage of his kindness and his offer to pitch in. Here is his answer to your question:

A few years ago the late advertising legend, David Ogilvy introduced me to someone by saying, "This is Drayton Bird. He knows what works."

I was hugely flattered, but with rare modesty, I replied that I don't know everything you should do—merely most of the things you shouldn't.

To get lots more sales from your brochures, ads and mailings, make sure you avoid these deadly sins.

There are at least seven of them that I can think of, but because of space constraints I'll share at least four or five with you.

So let's consider not what makes good ads, mailings (including brochures), e-mails and commercials, but why most of them stink. Because until you banish the bad, how can you hope to do well?

Common sins

I bet if you look through your marketing communications you will find some—if not all—of the following common sins.

1. Don't forget to do a complete selling job.

Give every sensible reason why somebody should respond and overcome every reasonable objection they may have.

Years ago, when working on The Reader's Digest record business, I noticed that if we did not list every tune in a compilation ad (or brochure) we lost sales.

Everyone looks for their favorite tune. If it's not there, they won't buy. Omit nothing relevant!

2. Make sure you prove what you say is true.

A surprising amount of messages have a powerful opening and a good theme, but is fail to convince people that what you say is true. You need proof.

My former partner Brian Thomas once told a school of salesmanship to put a testimonial in their mailing.

This did so well they put in four more. Sales went up again. They ended up sending out fifty copies of testimonials from satisfied customers.

If you have no testimonials, start building your own file of satisfied people.

When showing testimonials, show the pictures of the people and even the signatures. Or show the letter in the original handwriting or typewritten form. All these things make them more believable.

People look at people

3. Not showing enough people.

I've lost count of the number of times I have looked at visual treatments and suggested: "why don't you put pictures of people in?" People look at people.

For example, in ads for INSEAD in France—the world's most expensive business school—I tested putting in a picture of the Associate Dean. It doubled response.

4. Wasting money on unnecessary elements.

Because it's sometimes hard to develop an argument you may be tempted to put in illustrations that are really not needed so as to develop a visual theme.

Every word, every picture, every piece of paper must contribute to the result. If you can't see what job some element is doing, take it out.

Some of the most successful pieces I've written—particularly in financial and business to business fields—have had no brochure. They have been simple letters, perhaps even more persuasive because they seem somehow less commercial.

For the Bank of Scotland, I took out two brochures and left in the letter. Return on investment went up 90.8 percent. (So why not try and test sending out letters instead of brochures all the time!)

Good ending

5. Never have a weak ending.

Every element in a mailing, ad or commercial has to be good if you are going to get results.

But two are most important—the opening and the close, which determines whether they act or not.

You must make it easy to respond. American Express enjoyed 30 percent uplift in sales a few years ago in one highly competitive market, largely by making the application easier to fill in.

The close should be powerful and persuasive and should repeat all the reasons why people ought to reply—including the incentive.

If you don't get every single person who is slightly interested to respond, it's a shame. You've got them this far. NOW's the time to cash in.

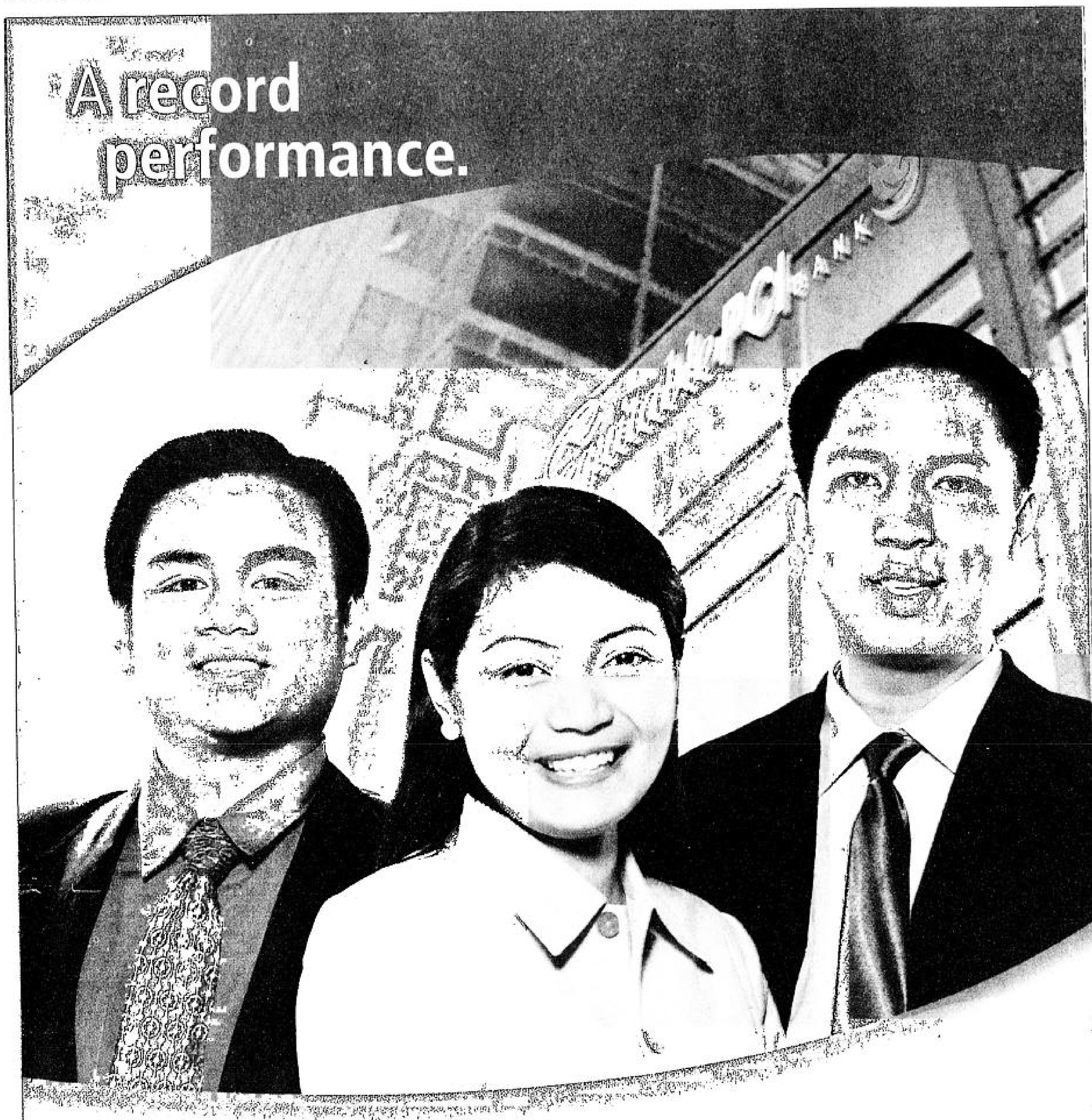
A good end to this article is a piece I once found in an old book. It is the end of a mailing from the 1930s in America.

"Let nothing absolutely nothing interfere with immediate action. A change for the better justifies no delay. Don't watch others make money which you can make. Be up and doing now. Some other time may be too late. Place your order and application this very minute. Take the action now that ensures more money next week, independence next year."

You may not want to put something as forceful as that, but you must go hard for a response.

All these things may sound simple and obvious. But then, most of the things that make the big differences in business are.

Thank you Mr. Bird! If you'd like to meet, listen and learn from Drayton Bird's upcoming Direct Marketing seminar in August, please call 813-2732/03. Keep your questions coming. *(Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!)*


A record performance.

Equitable PCI Bank. Your Bank of Choice.

Equitable PCI Bank posted a remarkable performance in 2004, a result of dedicated and extraordinary effort by the Bank to improve products, services and distribution network, and ensure financial health and profitability. Such performance is nothing short of what investors, depositors, partners and shareholders expect – truly worthy of being your Bank of Choice.

- Net income grew 39% over the previous year to a record P1.8 billion – the highest in six years
- Total resources rose 7% to P310 billion, deposits were up 4% to P194 billion and net loans expanded 14% to P138 billion
- Capital increased 5% to P41.4 billion with capital adequacy ratio at 14.3% which is comfortably above the regulatory minimum of 10%
- Cash dividends of P436 million were declared, resuming a practice of returning excess capital to shareholders
- The Bank's share price had nearly doubled to P48 over three years, representing a compounded annual return to shareholders of 25% compared to the Phisix's 16% rise from 2001 to 2004
- Our credit card subsidiary retained its leading position in the industry, achieving a 16% increase in cardholder base and 22% hike in billings
- PCI Leasing and Finance maintained its dominance in the leasing and finance sector with a 37% surge in net income and 46% expansion in total resources
- Our remittance unit sustained its major industry ranking with a 16% increase in pure OFW remittances – the second year in a row of above industry growth
- Our Trust Banking group grew total assets under management to over P100 billion, strengthening its position as the country's third largest asset manager

Equitable PCI BANK

Your Bank of Choice

Contact our Call Center at 84-911 (Metro Manila)
PLDT 1-800-188-84-911 and Digitel 1-800-333-84-911 (Provincial)
visit www.equitablepcib.com

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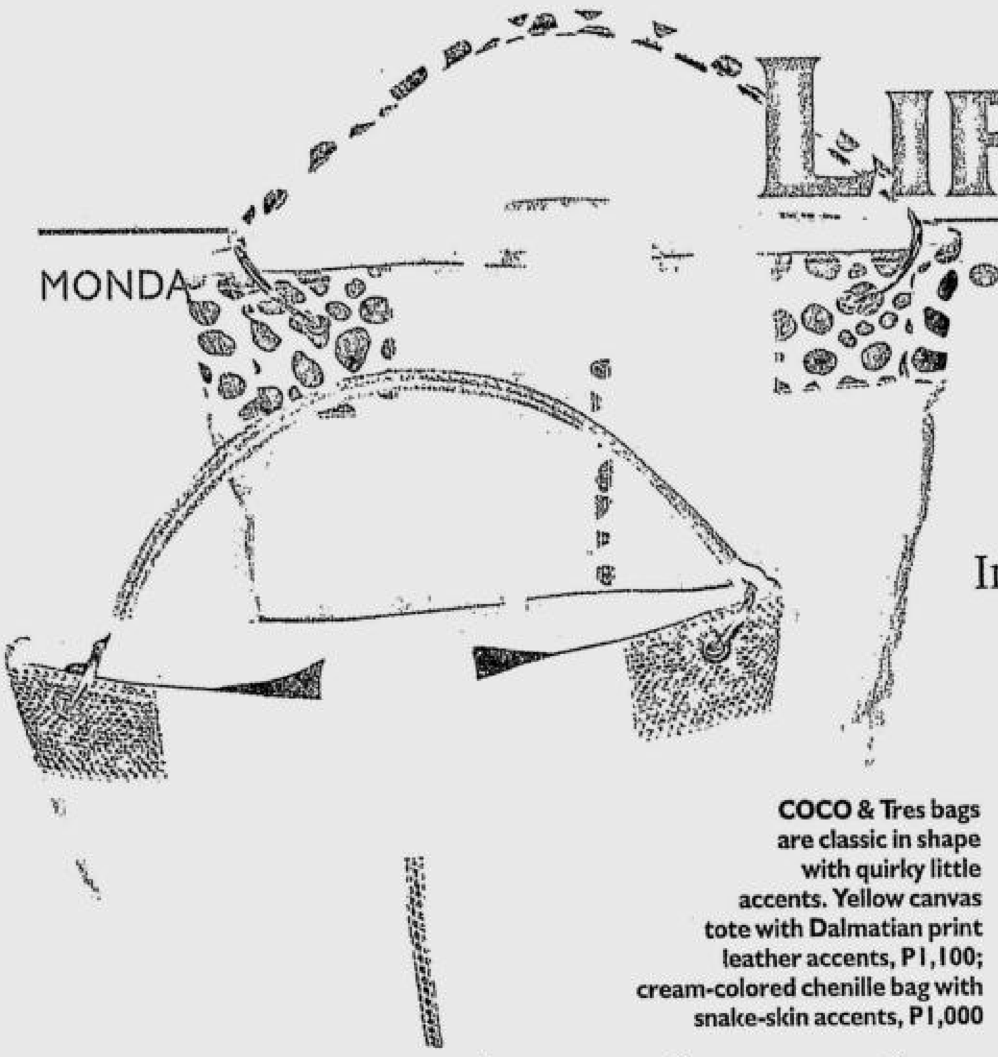
Philippines SUPERBRAND 2005 Gold

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

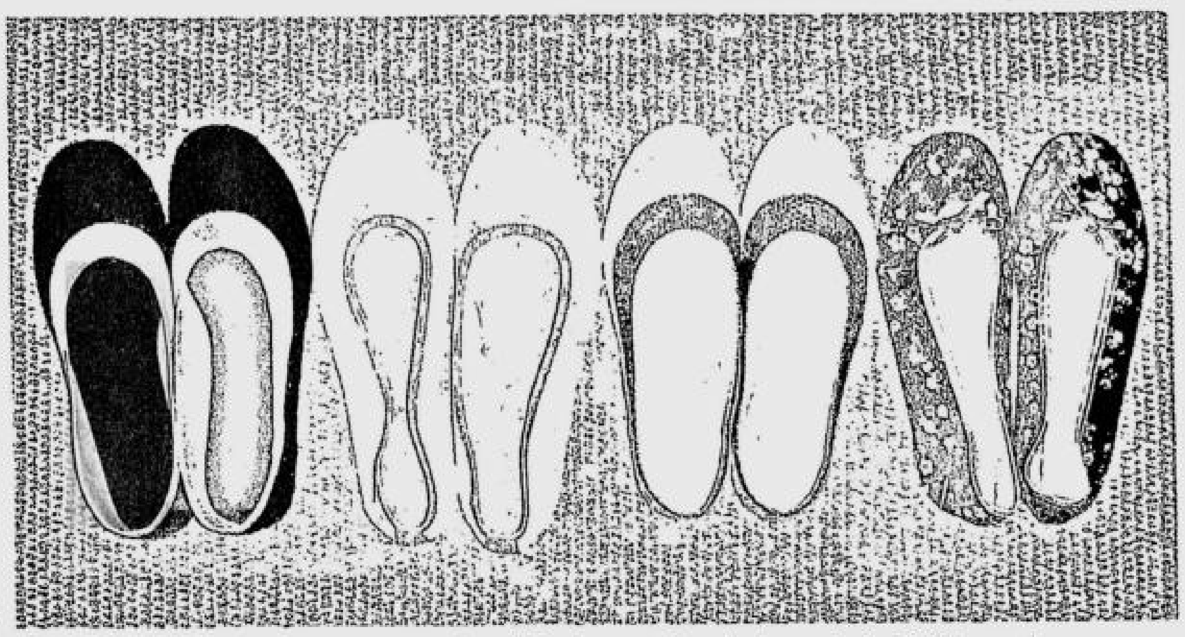
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDA… ◉ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◉ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◉ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**



COCO & Tres bags are classic in shape with quirky little accents. Yellow canvas tote with Dalmatian print leather accents, P1,100; cream-colored chenille bag with snake-skin accents, P1,000

Meet the Imeldific ladies behind Sapato Manila



MULTI-HUED ballerina flats are eye-candy and ideal accents for a basic wardrobe, P800 per pair.

The shoe-holics and the bag lady

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THEY have shared a passion for fashion, but it is their special fondness for shoes that has made them join forces and start a business.

Nicky Yuson, Jen Calma-Sarmiento, Joyce Mendoza and Theresa Santos have been good friends since high school at Assumption College, but it took them more than a decade plus constant exchange of ideas and dreams to finally put up their long-awaited shoe brand called Sapato Manila.

Because of their Imeldific love for footwear and the constant search for cheap but chic and elusive finds, the four friends decided to take matters into their own hands. "Jen already had her bag business so we both thought that it was but natural to get into the shoe business, as well," says Nicky, who took up fashion merchandising in New York and Paris and worked for Citem here in Manila. "Besides, it seemed like everything was made in China and we really wanted to focus on Philippine-made shoes that are stylish, trendy and of good quality," Nicky adds.

With this in mind, they trekked to Marikina to source for raw materials and find suppliers they could work with.

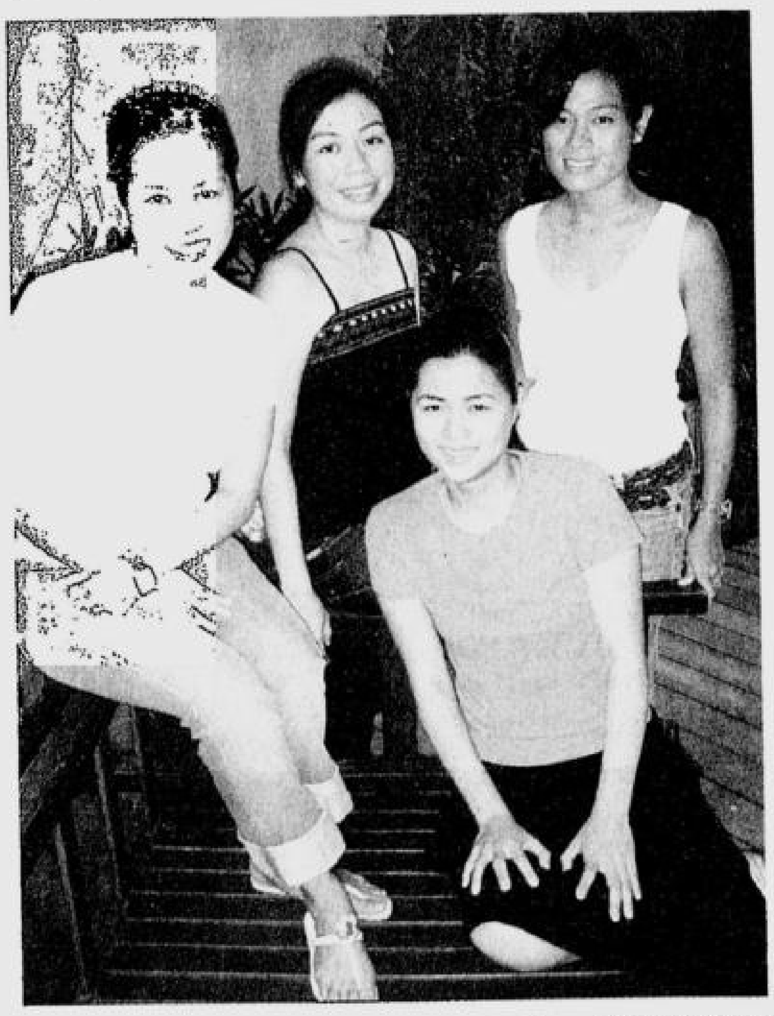
Fortunately, Jen was already familiar with the place because her Coco & Tres bags are also manufactured there. She is quite the artist and draws inspiration from everything around her, be it stylish women with fashionable totes or a particular art piece.

Research and development

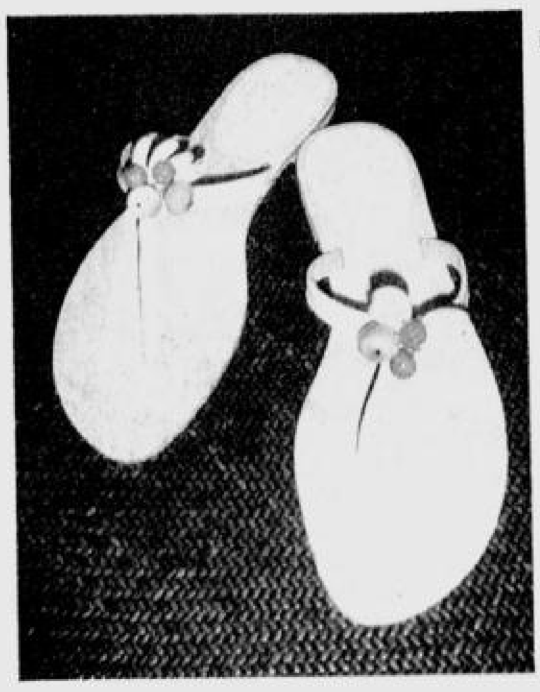
"We also do a lot of research. We browse the Internet, read tons of magazines, try to find inspiration and learn as much as we can," says the svelte and pretty mother of three.

"When we were developing our shoe line, we took several things into consideration. These are, first and foremost, comfort and, of course, fashion forward

THE SHOE/ C3



"SUPPORT the Filipino craftsman," say friends Theresa Santos, Joyce Mendoza, Jen Calma-Sarmiento and Nicky Yuson, who aim to develop their locally made shoe brand with the hopes of going global in the future.

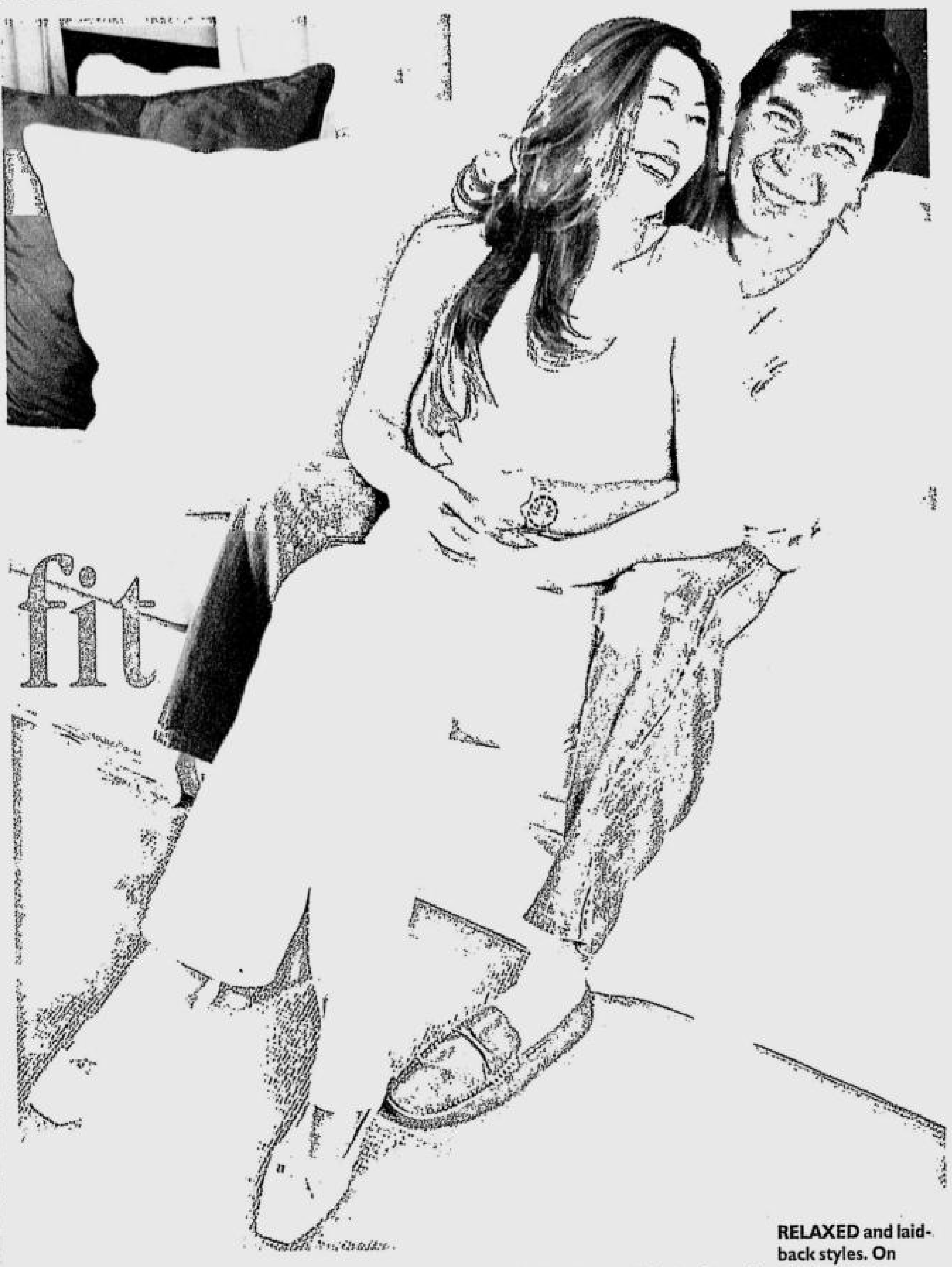


MY PERSONAL favorites are these whimsical white leather thongs embellished with fruits, P800.

Rustan's
end of season sale
July 14 to 31, 2005
Up to 50% off on selected items
enjoy it while it lasts.

Stylish couple, perfect fit

CECILLE'S casual statement is a reflection of her spirited personality. Here seen with Tod's Modi Fibbia shoes in paprika and leather Venghe Tracollina bag in paprika



RELAXED and laid-back styles. On Cecille: Degas ballerinas in water-green. On Louie: Gommini loafers with Selleria accessory in mogano

STYLISH couple Cecille and Louie Ysmael share a preference for comfort and ease.

The parents of a two-year-old girl and "guardian" to two dogs, they go for simplicity and understated elegance, not just in the way they have decorated their home but also in their wardrobe.

Cecille, a full-time mother and wife, says she usually goes for an all-white outfit or, on more casual days, a pair of jeans and a T-shirt. And when it comes to buying bags and shoes, she opts for Tod's products.

Here, Cecille sports a pair of Tod's Sabrina sandals in leather and fabric as she talks about spending time in the kitchen to concoct cuisine for her family or dinner parties for friends.

She is also at ease in a white pair of Tod's driving loafers and a tote bag in caramel. "I used to like small bags but since Missy, I now find myself buying bigger ones for practicality," she says. She takes a particular liking to Tod's Happy bag in a combination of leather, suede and pony.

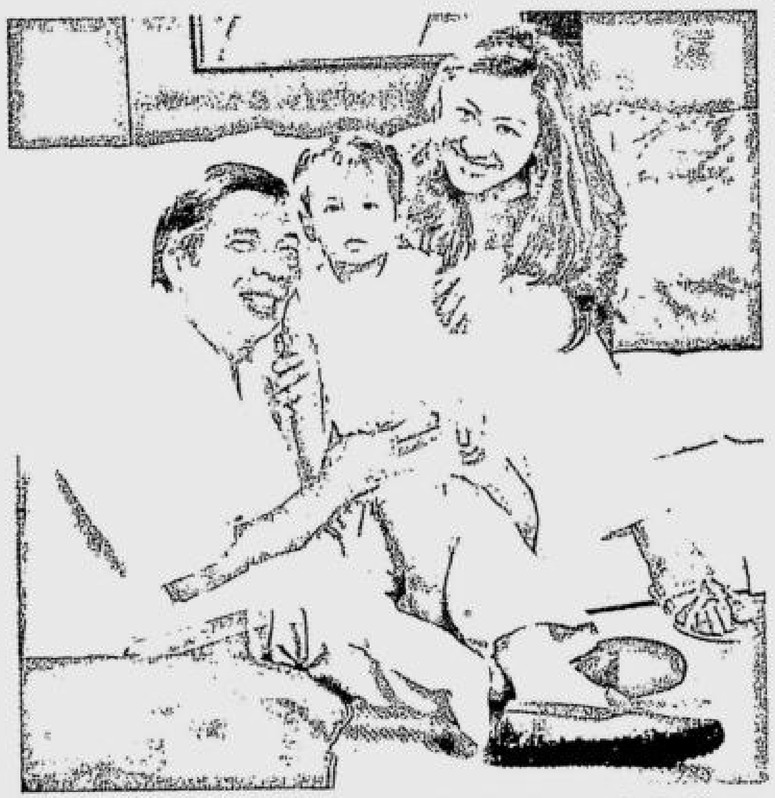
Louie, on the other hand, has a fascination for leather. Cecille says, "In choosing shoes, that's the first thing he scrutinizes, the leather. He smells and feels it. He has gotten excellent at deciphering quality leather. He loves leather-bound books, jackets and shoes, of course. And Tod's is his leather shoe of choice."

"I bought my first pair back in 1994 during a trip to Florence," recalls Louie. It was a pair of light-brown driving shoes. It was very me—laid-back classic. I like simple cuts and patterns that are not too stiff."

Tod's new summer collection comes in top-of-the-line suede, leather and fabric adorned with intricate detailing. The men's collection offers a wide variety of choices that will fit any lifestyle.

Tod's is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., and is located at Greenbelt 3.

BEAMING with Tod's Happy bag in combination leather, suede and pony



FAMILY affair. On Louie: New Gommini loafers in navy. On Cecille: Matisse Ciabattina sandals in yellow

DOG lover Louie wears Tod's navy Owhen's sports shoes in combination suede and nylon.

CECILLE wears Tod's Matisse thong sandals, with New D-bag Mini in yellow and New D-bag Media in white.

Weather bureau

THERE is no reason to forgo an action-packed agenda or sacrifice style because of the rain. Just make sure you have Robinsons Department Store's inexpensive and versatile essentials and a few tricks up your sleeve! Here are a few:

- Hoodie and knit tops. Make a splash and disguise the gloom with bright colors and vivid prints for hoodies, boleros and knitted blouses.
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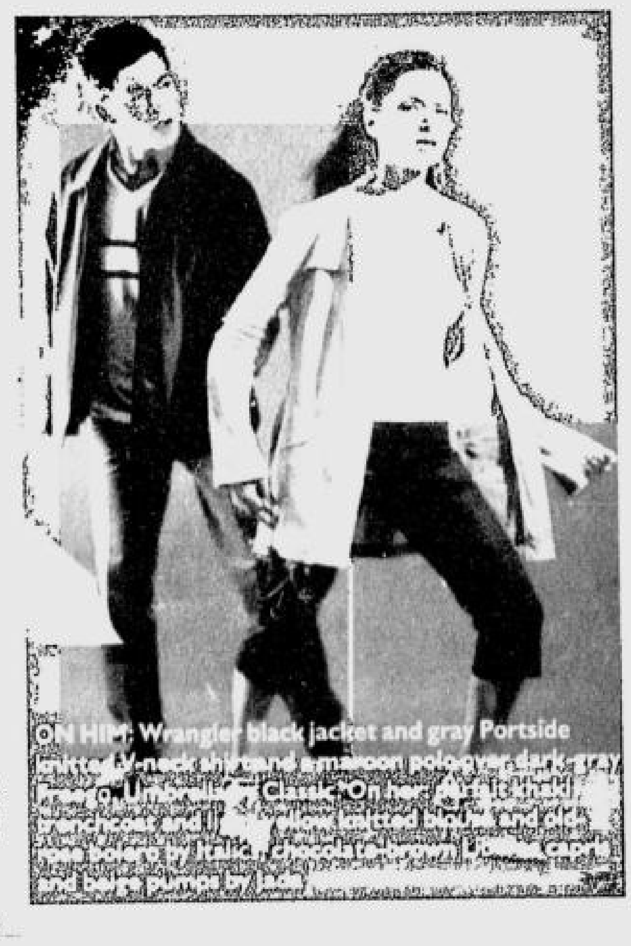
- Capris and cargos. Pastel capris or dark-colored cargos paired with your favorite layered shirts and polos are perfect during wet weather.
- Belts and brooches. Trinkets, bead bracelets, hats or print-savvy mufflers will perk up any mood.
- Boots and pumps. Marooned? Fish out your favorite ankle boots or heeled leather pumps. These powerful protection against gray moods and wet toes can take you puddle jumping in no time!

To lift your dampened spirits, link up to www.rds.com.ph.

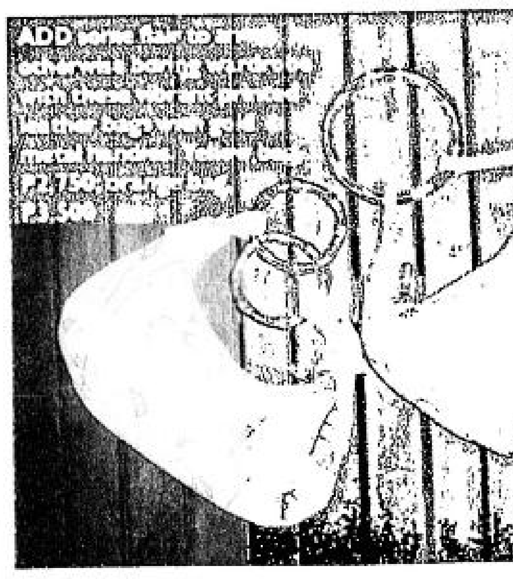


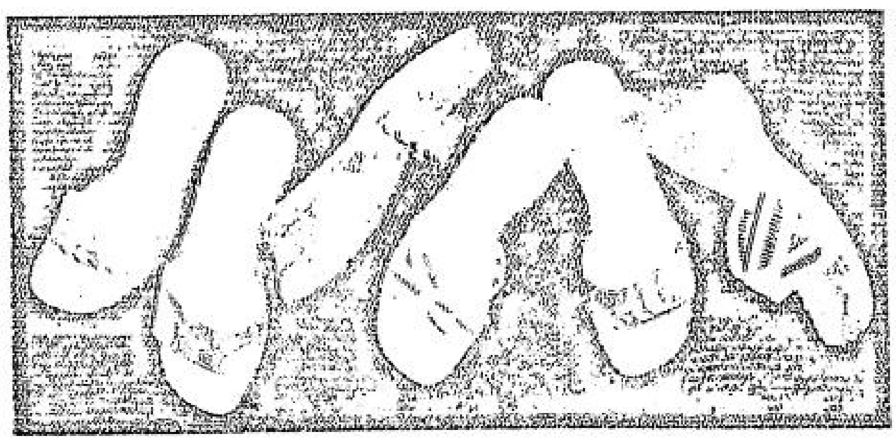
ON HIM: Wrangler black jacket and gray Portside knitted V-neck shirt and a maroon polo over dark-gray [illegible] Classic. On her: [illegible] trenchcoat and [illegible] knitted blouse and [illegible] bolero by Italic, chocolate-brown [illegible] capris and beige Pumps by [illegible]

COMPANY B denim jacket and pink checkered polo over red Portside cotton shirt and Company B dark-brown cargo pants with an orange Hamer belt

COMPANY B denim jacket over a Julia knitted striped blouse and printed purple scarf accent. Khaki Liberte capris and Leaveland beige half-boots. Umbrella by Grosser Schatten

THE BESTSELLER to date is this flattering *abaca* wedge with gold leather straps, P1,000.


ADD some flair to an otherwise boring wardrobe with these [illegible] P2,750 [illegible] P3,500.


SAPATO Manila's colorful *abaca* slides are perfect for weekend jaunts or casual days, P800 per pair.

The shoe-holics and the bag lady

From page C1

designs," says Theresa.

According to this classically chic property manager, they make it a point to choose styles that they themselves would wear. They also test-drive their items before marketing them to ensure the quality. "We've also decided to manufacture only a limited number per style and to maintain very reasonable price points," says Joyce, a former Forex trader turned entrepreneur.

Thus far, the friends have come up with a good range of shoe designs from whimsical thong sandals to sophisticated evening stilettos. The best part is the items are indeed reasonably priced, ranging from P800 to P1,200.

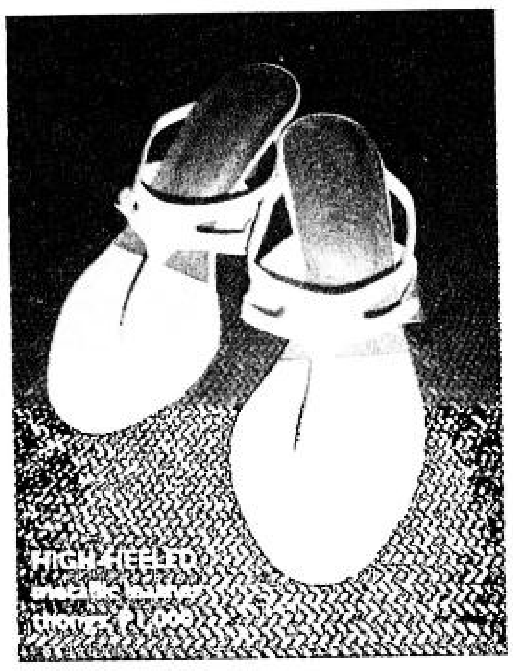
Meanwhile, Jen's stylish totes are also quite interesting. A python print *banig* messenger bag with metallic accents, for example, is quite unique and definitely up-to-the-minute.

If you are always in search of something new in the local fashion scene, check out both Sapato Manila and Coco & Tres. This writer definitely satisfied her fashion craving and maybe you will, too.

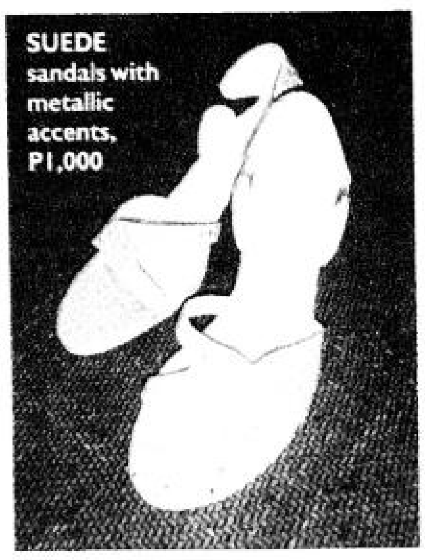
For inquiries on Sapato Manila, call Joyce at 0927-9148237 or send your e-mails to sapatomanila@gmail.com. For Coco & Tres, call Jen at 0917-5771010 or send your e-mails to cocotres@gmail.com.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com.

BLACK satin stilettos, P1,000

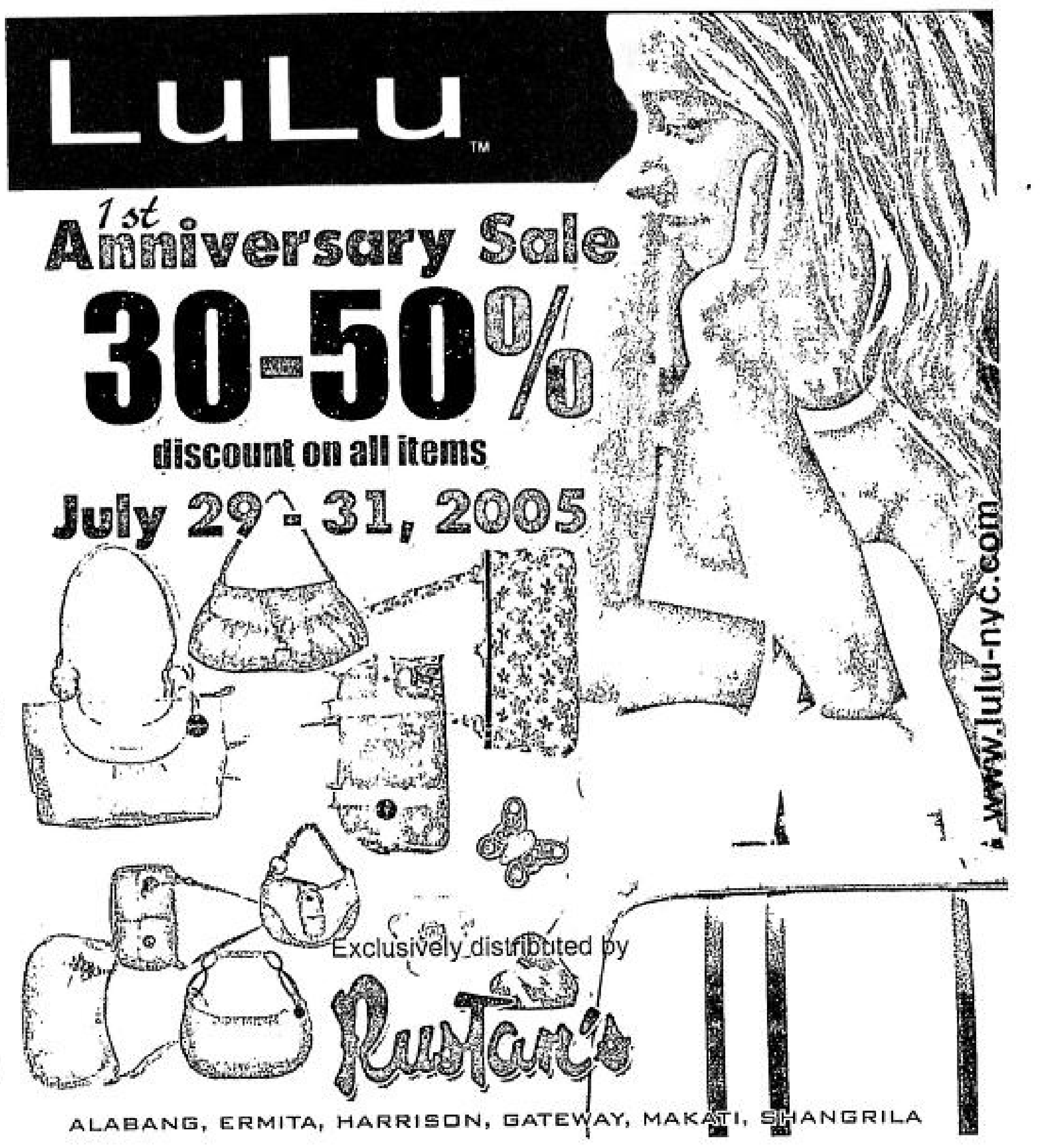

HIGH-HEELED [illegible] thongs, P1,000

THOSE in the corporate arena can opt for these stylish two-toned leather shoes, P1,200 per pair.


SUEDE sandals with metallic accents, P1,000

THERESA Santos bags one of Coco & Tres' hottest totes, P2,150.

ANOTHER one of my favorites is this ultra-stylish python-printed *banig* messenger bag, P2,150.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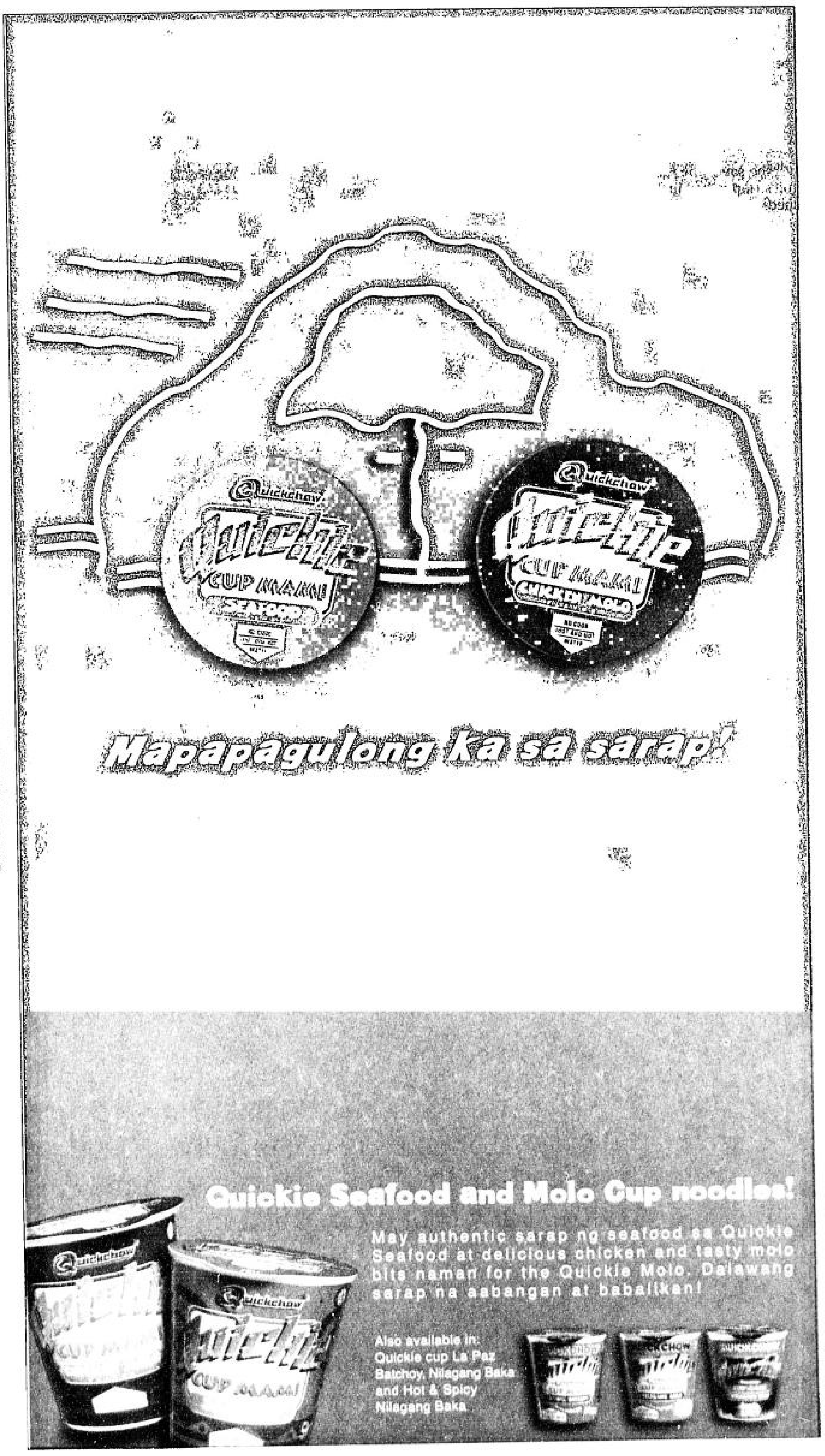
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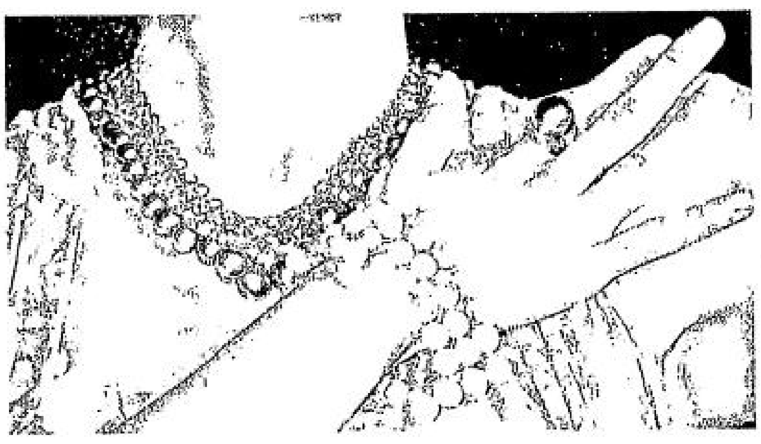

That rare pearl

Hoseki takes pride in its South Sea pearls designed with Filipino flair

STORY ON PAGE D3

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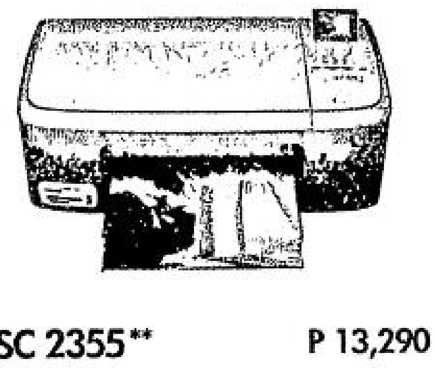

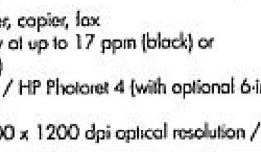

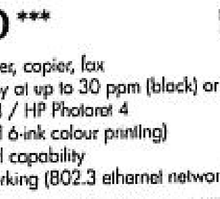

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Promo Details

1. The "Get fit with HP" promotion will run from June 1 to August 15, 2005. Redemption will be until October 15, 2005.
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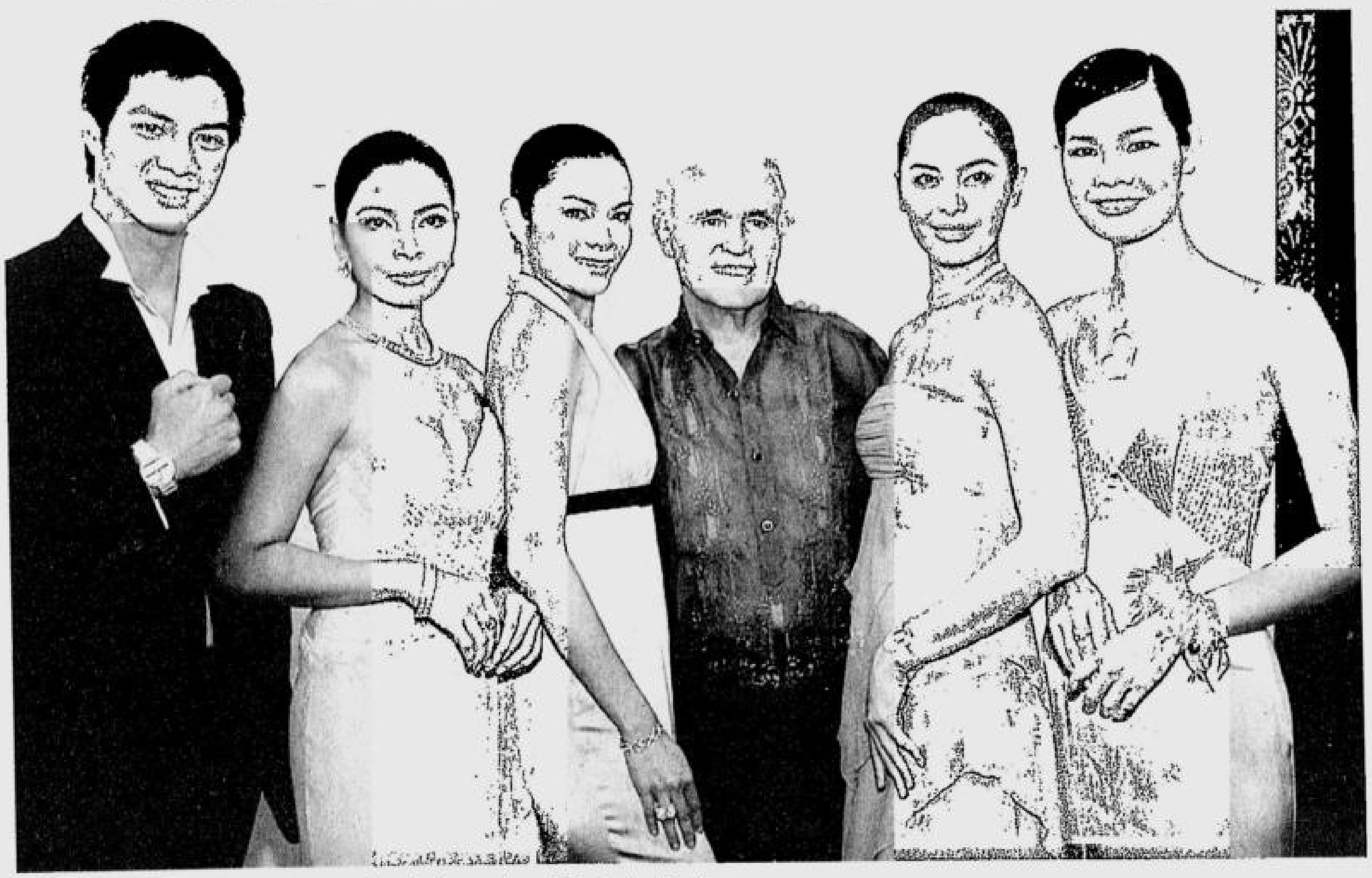
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3101, Series of 2005

The true, the good and the beautiful

By Andrea Guerrero
Contributor

> Yves G. Piaget of the famous jewelry and watch line believes true luxury is found in authentic things, like leather, wood and gold


YVES Piaget flanked by models wearing the luxury brand's latest collection

WE, as humans, have a fierce desire for the unattainable. Value is given to that which is difficult to attain. Diamonds are a perfect example of this theory. In reality, these coveted stones are nothing more than compressed carbon. It is their rarity that gives them value.

Piaget's jewels and watches have this same allure. Playing on this theory, Piaget produces only a few thousand pieces of its collection each year, tickling the world market with a few beautiful pieces, always leaving the crème de la crème salivating for more.

Monsieur Yves G. Piaget, chair of Piaget International, chose to tickle the fancy of the Philippines by personally coming over to Manila to present Piaget's latest collection. Piaget himself studied watchmaking, and received his degree from the University of Neuchâtel and received a Gemologist degree from the Gemological Institute of America.

This hands-on approach to leadership reflects Piaget's personal views on his company. Piaget likes to think of his company as his family and, like a true father, he is never lacking in praise. for his artisans whose talent and dedication to the craft of watch- and jewelry-making are the soul of Piaget International.

Wearable art

Piaget is quick to say that his artisans are more than watchmakers, they are artists, and their watches and jewels are pieces of wearable art. It is this sense of family that led Piaget to choose the Rustan's group to carry his famous line of jewels and watches. Piaget felt that the family-run Rustan's shared his values and, thus, was the perfect way to present his company's creations to the Philippines.

The press was treated to a show of some of the latest pieces from Piaget's Lime Light collection, with four stunning Filipina models and one striking Filipino male model posing for pictures and answering questions about each creation.

MISS Protocol watch bracelet

PIAGET Polo 2004

While every piece was a work of art, there were a few that stood out. One in particular was the hot pink feather- and precious stone-adorned Miss Protocol watch bracelet. The piece embodies the ideals of the "Miss Protocol" name, a woman unafraid to stand in the spotlight and be seen as trendy, hot and stylish. No doubt this particular piece will be a hit with the more fashion-adventurous women of the metro.

Another electrifying piece was the large heart-shaped pendant set with 176 brilliant cut diamonds in white gold. It was a more subtle yet equally stunning piece, seeming to radiate a kind of understated beauty that is classically Filipina.

Iconic piece

The last piece was the latest renovation of a 1970s iconic piece, the Piaget Polo watch. Worn by the only male model in the group, the Piaget Polo 2004 did not lose itself among the women's pieces. A dazzling white gold and diamond piece, the watch, which comes in sizes for both men and women, is a true piece of functional art. Yves Piaget himself wears an earlier model of the watch. With its clean lines and crisp look, it is the perfect accessory for the classic man.

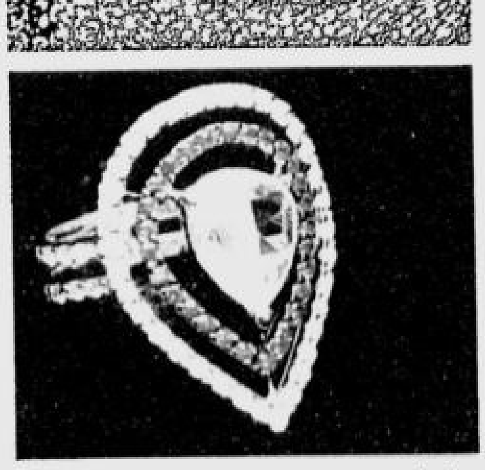
Piaget's jewels and watches are thoroughly captivating. It is, however, Piaget's passion for his work that is inspiring—the simplicity in which he presents himself, the emotion in which he speaks of his company and his craft. A true craftsman, Piaget believes that true luxury is found in authentic things, like leather, wood and gold. Real things, he says, are what is truly beautiful.

Gem of power

HSBC Red MasterCard's 'Love Yourself' raffle gives women the chance to try on a diamond ring

LOVE yourself! Win this GIA-certified 1.39-carat diamond ring with your HSBC Red MasterCard.

FANCY cut amethyst in two shades set in pink gold by Wynn Wynn Ong


DIAMANTE in a marquis cut surrounded by small diamonds by Jul Dizon

TO ENCOURAGE women to wear the diamond ring as a signal of their empowerment, the HSBC Red MasterCard, the first credit card exclusively for women, is giving new and current cardholders a chance to win a GIA-certified 1.39-carat solo diamond ring through the "Love Yourself" raffle.

"This is era of the 'power-ring,'" said Marion Balagot, HSBC vice president for credit cards marketing.

Four top women in the jewelry trade give women tips on diamond jewelry.

Jul Dizon, whose family has been in the jewelry business for 27 years, picked out three interesting ring design concepts.

The first is a *diamante* in a marquis cut, surrounded by small diamonds. "A *diamante* is bought as a potential heirloom to be kept in the family for generations," said Dizon. "It is one of those treasured gems which our mothers handed down to their daughters."

"A *diamante* is also good for business," Dizon added. "I know because my mother gave me one and our business has since then been shared by our children who have all won international awards."

Dizon also recommended a ring encrusted with black diamonds on the band with a row of baguettes at the center from which a pearl playfully dangles.

"Everyone will notice this ring on her right hand," said Dizon.

Another jeweler, Wynn Wynn Ong, said she would go for attitude.

TWIST ring. Swarovski crystals on 92.5-silver wire by Ciara Marasigan

"I would normally design for the middle or forefinger—that symbolizes empowerment," said Ong. "My jewelry is designed to have an attitude—whoever wears my pieces has to know what she wants to project."

The avant garde designer said jewelry must be marked by individuality.

"This is no longer the age of conformity. Women can assert themselves by maintaining their individuality and a strong piece of jewelry can represent the 'real you.'"

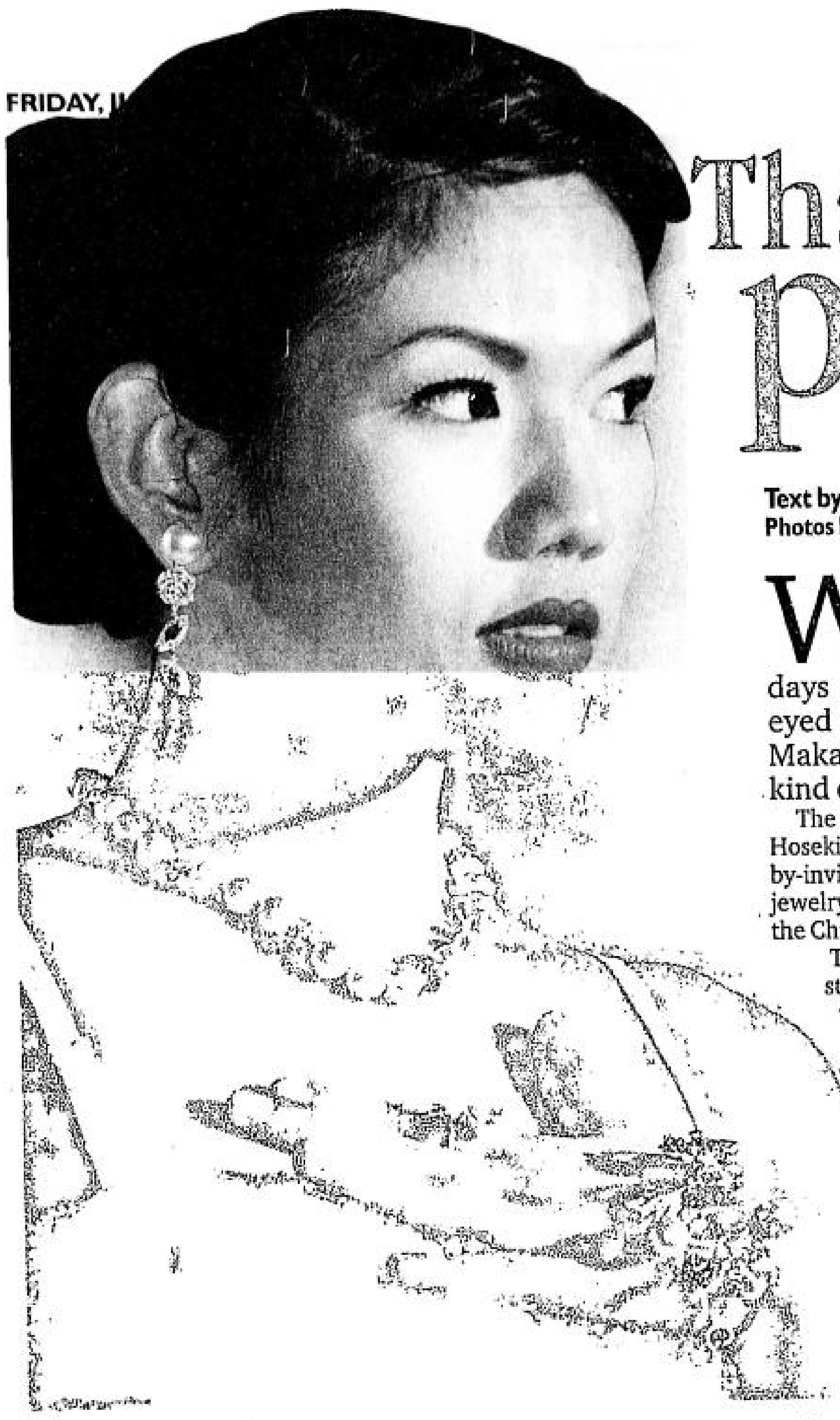
Young fashion jewelry designer Ciara Marasigan goes for youth and fun. "When serious fun is on the agenda, there's no better co-conspirator than a chunky ring. A fun and frivolous piece announces a light-hearted attitude," she said.

Michelle Dayrit Soliven, however, goes for Filipina sensibility. "The modern Filipina chooses empowering pieces like wearable diamond rings that can be worn from morning till night, at work, home or at play," she said.

She warned against excess and urged women to go for beauty and utility. "If you can't wear them, why buy them?"

To join the "Love Yourself" raffle, cardholders can get one entry for every P300 charged to their Red MasterCard, five entries for every approved supplementary credit card application, and five entries for every balance transfer application approved during the promo period. New cardholders also get an instant P300 credit to their card aside from waived annual fees for the first year.

Visit www.hsbc.com.ph.



FAI Co's Eden collection

That rare pearl

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

WHILE anti-GMA protesters filled the streets of Ayala several days ago, some of Manila's moneyed flocked to another side of Makati in an altogether different kind of assembly.

The event was the jewelry fashion show of Hoseki, at The Loft in Rockwell Center. The by-invitation evening was attended by the jewelry maker's choice clients, primarily from the Chinese community.

The chaotic scene from Ayala was a stark contrast to the Hoseki festivities, with the entire second level of The Loft rose-petal strewn, uniformed waiters serving spirits and hors d'oeuvres to the perfumed attendees bedecked in their evening finery and jewels.

"The jewelry business has been a challenge, I have to admit," whispered Fai Co with a wry grin on his face. "But we just have to do what we have to do."

Co is the co-owner and chief designer of Japanese-named Hoseki, founded by his father in the family's pearl farm in Zamboanga (now relocated in Palawan) some nine years ago. "We can't help but be proud of our jewelry. It is proudly made in the Philippines," he said. "It is designed by local artists and made by Filipino *plateros* (jeweler)."

"Everything is handmade," added Knoi Esmane, the brand's manager and co-designer.

Hoseki's show was to herald the opening of its new showroom at The Podium in Mandaluyong. Dubbed "A Touch of White Magic," Hoseki's new collection is a showcase not only of prized South Sea pearls, but also their mingling with other precious materials like diamonds, sapphires and topazes.

"We're for diversity, that's why we incorporated colored stones. We don't make only pearl jewelry," said Shamaine Chua-Ng, another Hoseki designer. She holds a graduate degree from the Gemological Institute of America.

The Hoseki new collection falls under four themes.

Urban Zen is aimed at younger clients, with South Sea pearls set in silver or yellow gold in origami-like designs. Designed by the young Esmane, Urban Zen has a decidedly casual and youthful vibe.

NEW Baroque anklet of white and champagne South Sea pearls set in gold

Chua-Ng's Geometric collection takes its cue from the unusual shapes of architectural landmarks like the Sydney Opera House and the Louvre, with black and white South Sea pearls and diamonds set in 14-k and 18-k gold.

Co, for his part, chooses the theme Eden to show off the intricate vine-like intermingling of diamonds, topazes, beryl, pink and blue sapphires and the ubiquitous South Sea pearls, in 14-k and 18-k gold. The design trio weaves layers upon layers of black and white South Sea pearls for New Baroque.

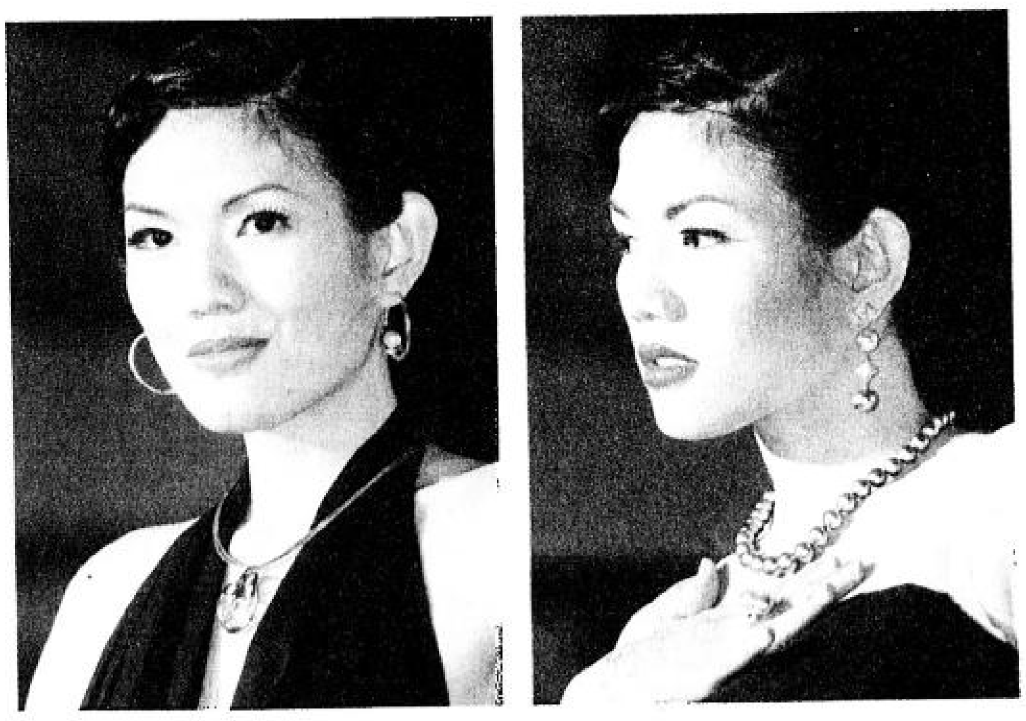
"The only thing Filipino jewelry artisans lack, perhaps, is in the technical aspect," Co said. "Design-wise, we're at par with the world's best."

Co, Chua-Ng and Esmane are award winners in various international jewelry design competitions.

These days owning beautiful jewelry is no longer an exclusive domain of the affluent few, Esmane noted.

"At Hoseki, we make pieces that even yuppies can afford," from P7,000, "to sky's the limit." He said to expect chunkier and more colorful pieces toward the end of the year.

GEOMETRIC pieces by Shamaine Chua-Ng



SOUTH Sea pearls, silver and rubber cavort in Knoi Esmane's Urban Zen designs. Above right, more sculptural pieces by Chua-Ng

MORE boldly romantic designs of pearls, diamonds and gold for the Eden collection

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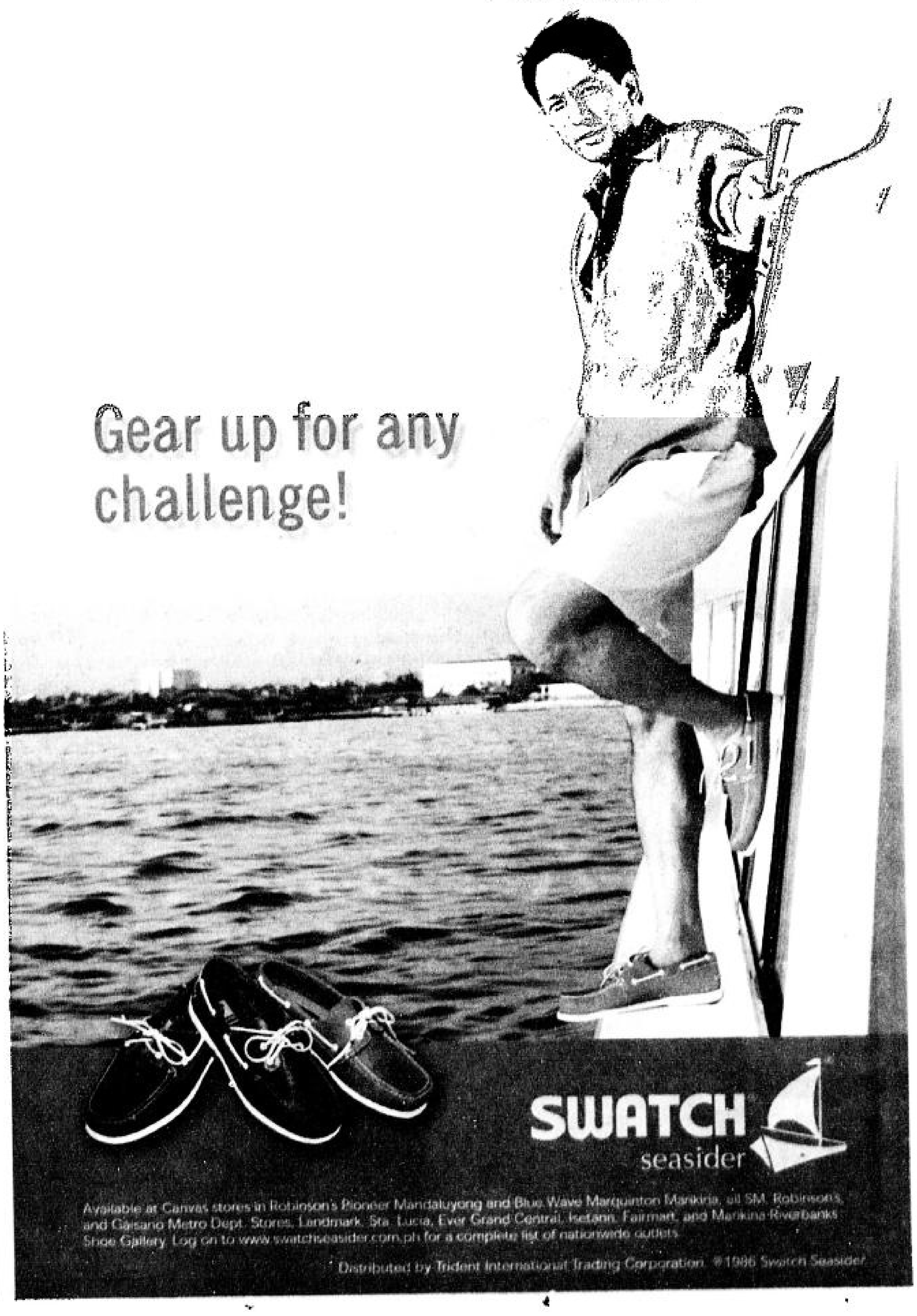

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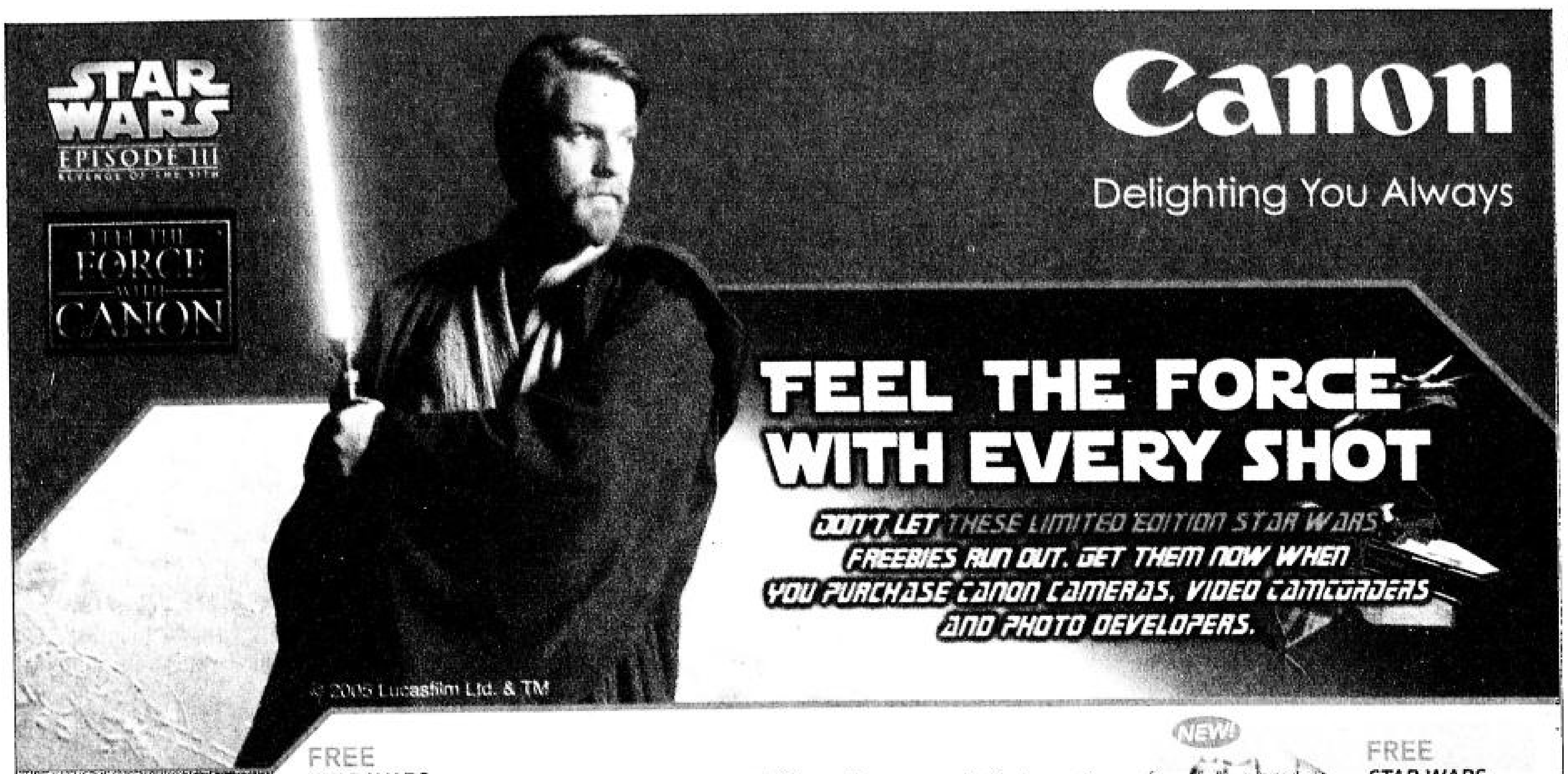
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ELLEN'S Aesthetic Center recently opened its 11th branch in Cebu. Guests during the ribbon-cutting ceremony were model Melanie Marquez and husband Adam Lawyer, fashion designer Eddie Baddeo, actress Elizabeth Oropesa and sexy star Stella L.

Workshops for children

RAYA School invites kids aged 6-12 to their workshops on Creative Writing (tomorrow and every second and fourth Saturday of the month) and Science (Aug. 20 and every third Saturday of the month). Workshops take place 10 a.m.-12 nn at 73-A Sct. Limbaga St., QC. Call 3762184.

GOINGS ON

ORGANIC MARKET. Sunday Market at Legaspi Park is ongoing every Sunday, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., at the parking lot on the corners of Legaspi, Salcedo and Herrera Streets near Union Church. Call 7294082/ 8109823.

COURSE. The Philippine Music Training School now accepts enrollees for Voice Dynamic and Stage Performance Course. Registration will be held tomorrow until Aug. 7. Classes start Aug. 8. PMTS is located at 117-A S. Macaya St., Brgy. Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora, QC. Call 4540078.

DANCE. Ballet at the Park presents Ballet Manila and Kultura Pilipina tomorrow, 5 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

CONCERT. Closing the July program of Concert at the Park on July 31, 5 p.m., is The New Exist band, composed of Bomber, Chester, Gail, Jay, Shaun and Chloe Ann Pascua. Admission is free. Venue is the Rizal Park open-air auditorium.

PROMO. Robinsons Malls launches "Pabahay Papremyo, Linggu-Linggo" on Aug. 1-Sept. 15. Qualified shoppers will have a chance to win household appliances in weekly raffle draws.

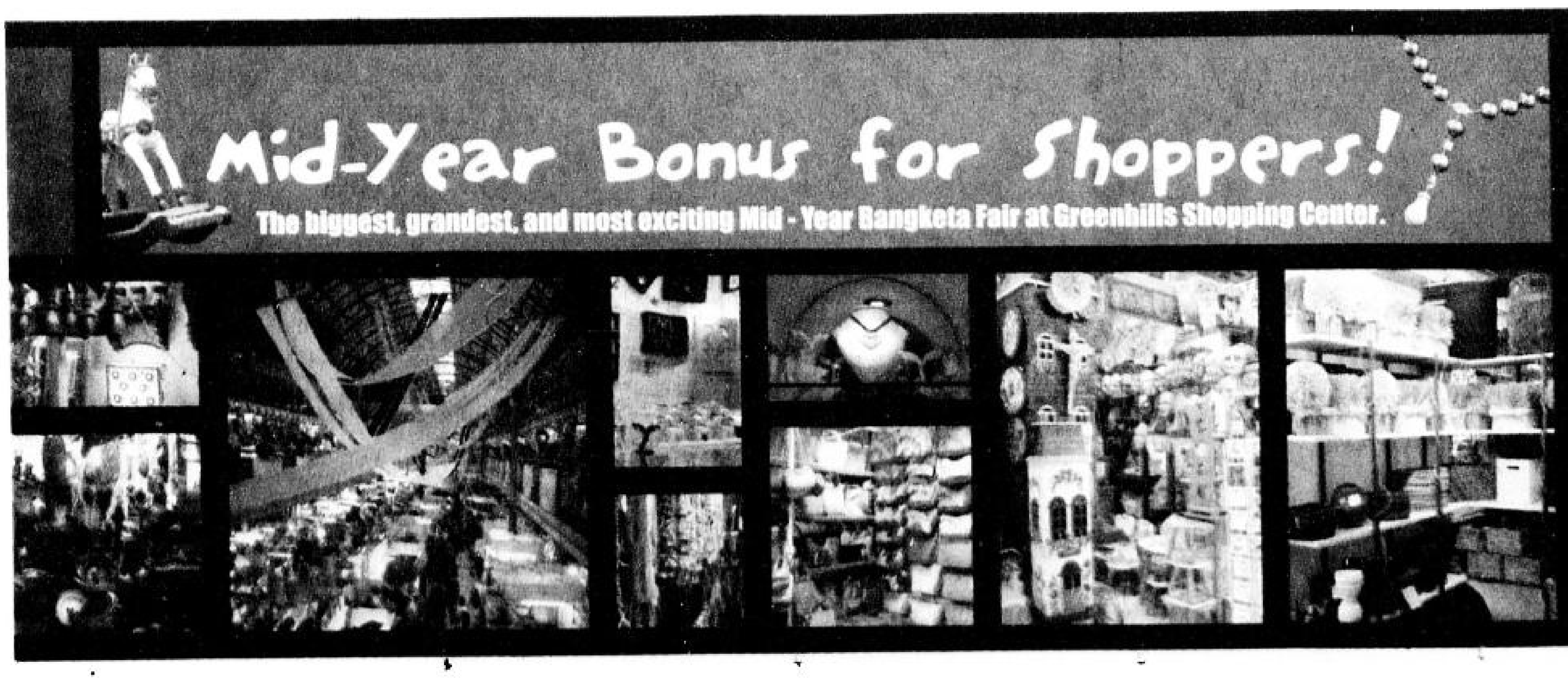
MALL ACTIVITIES. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall announces the search for the next "Gay Queen of the East." Get entry forms from the ad and promo department. Elimination rounds will be on Aug. 3 and 10. Big cash and other exciting prizes await winners.

COMPETITION. Join the Funk street dance competition open to amateur dance groups with four to six male or female members, 15-21 years old. Get an entry form now. Elimination rounds will be held today, Aug. 5, 12 and 19. Grand finals is on Aug. 21 at the Entertainment Center. McDonald's holds Grand Fun Day on July 30, with on-the-spot drawing and painting contest.

MUSICAL. The Santa Isabel College Music Department marks its diamond jubilee with "Excerpts from Musicals." Topbilled by selected students, faculty and the non-teaching staff of Santa Isabel College, the series of shows will be held Aug. 5, 6 and 7, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Call 5249723.

PLAYS. The Writers Bloc, an independent group of playwrights, is holding regular reading sessions of new plays every other Sunday afternoon at the CCP. This season opens on Aug. 7, and shall continue until November. Plays read and discussed during this period will be considered for presentation and/or publication in the Bloc's several activities. The regular sessions are free. Interested individuals may also apply for membership to the Bloc. E-mail rodyvera@yahoo.com or call 5510823.

TOUR. American Educational Opportunities tour will be held Sept. 14, 5-9 p.m., at Shangri-La Hotel Makati. Ten US universities will visit the Philippines to present admission info for undergraduate and graduate students. Admission is free. Call 8120945.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Visit the most awaited fair of the year! From July 8 to August 8, 2005, expect a bigger and wider collection of bargain finds with 1,700 stalls of apparel, shoes, bags, jewelry, and many other items at very affordable prices. Plus the best Philippine crafts from home décor to bags from the 2nd Philippine Crafts Fair that will make this fair even more colorful. Bring your family and friends to this mid - year event, because only at GSC can you shop 'til you drop on a giant bangketa!

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

CHI Spa Village's wooden walkway leading to the Sanctum

Cebu puts the Philippines on spa map

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

GIVEN what's going on, you must feel like you're in a cesspool where everything stinks. This is why the recent opening of the Chi Spa at Shangri-La Mactan was almost an abnormal occurrence in the Philippines: the place is supposed to offer serenity, harmony, equilibrium to the world that has come to associate the Philippines with strife. (The Philippines as "*palengkera*," in short)

Of course, again, it's in Cebu—the deviant in national politics and collective negative mindset. In the eternally optimistic and relentlessly entrepreneurial Cebu, Shangri-La Mactan opened the biggest and most luxurious spa resort in the country. It's the Philippines' first world-class spa. From what we saw, it should give Chiva-Som (Chiang Rai), Banyan Tree (Phuket) and other great spa

CEBU/E3

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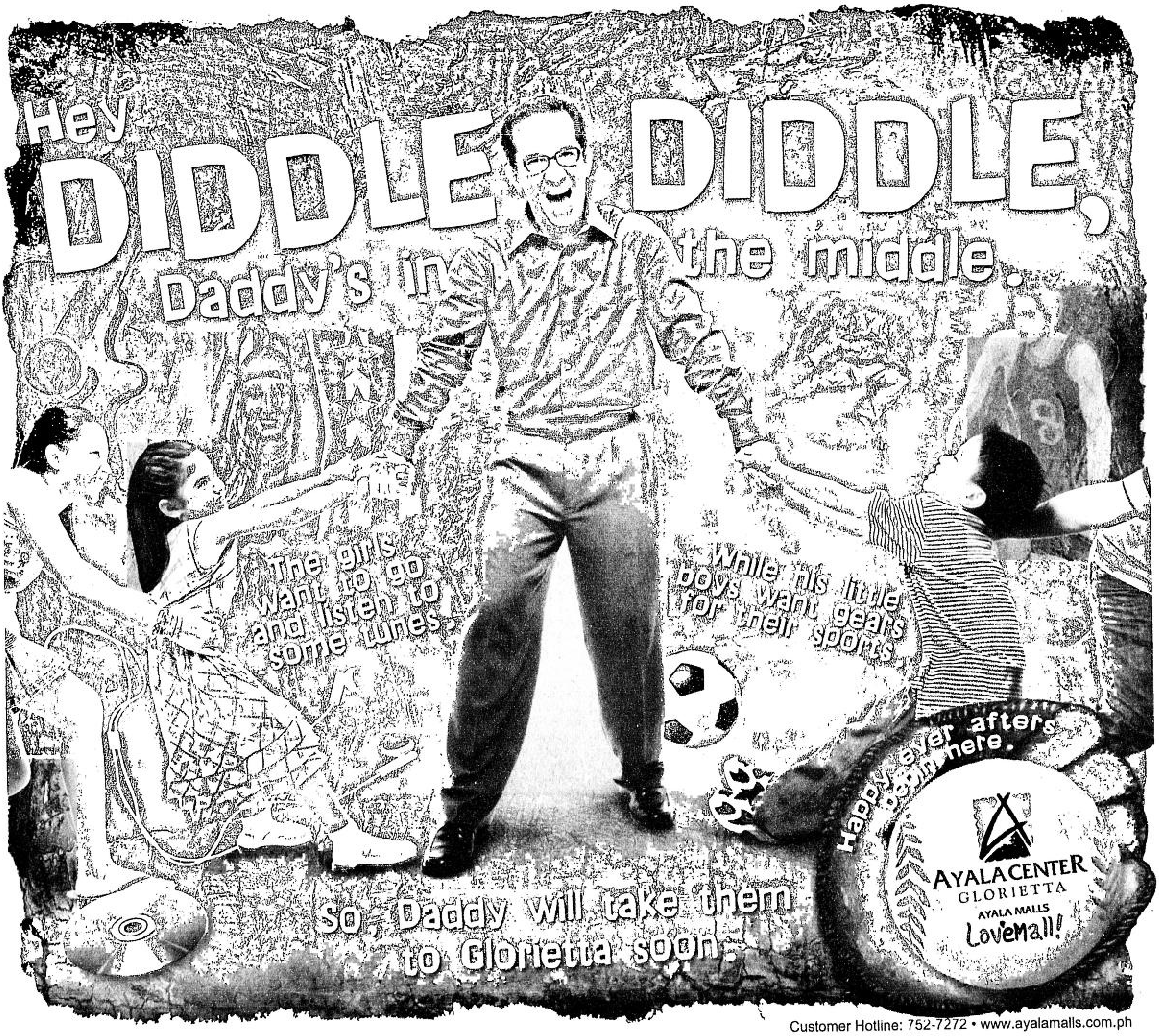

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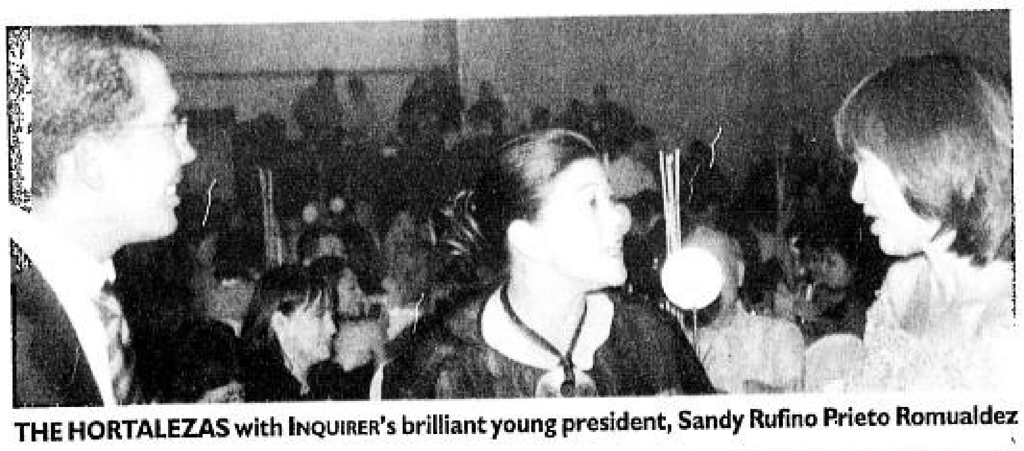
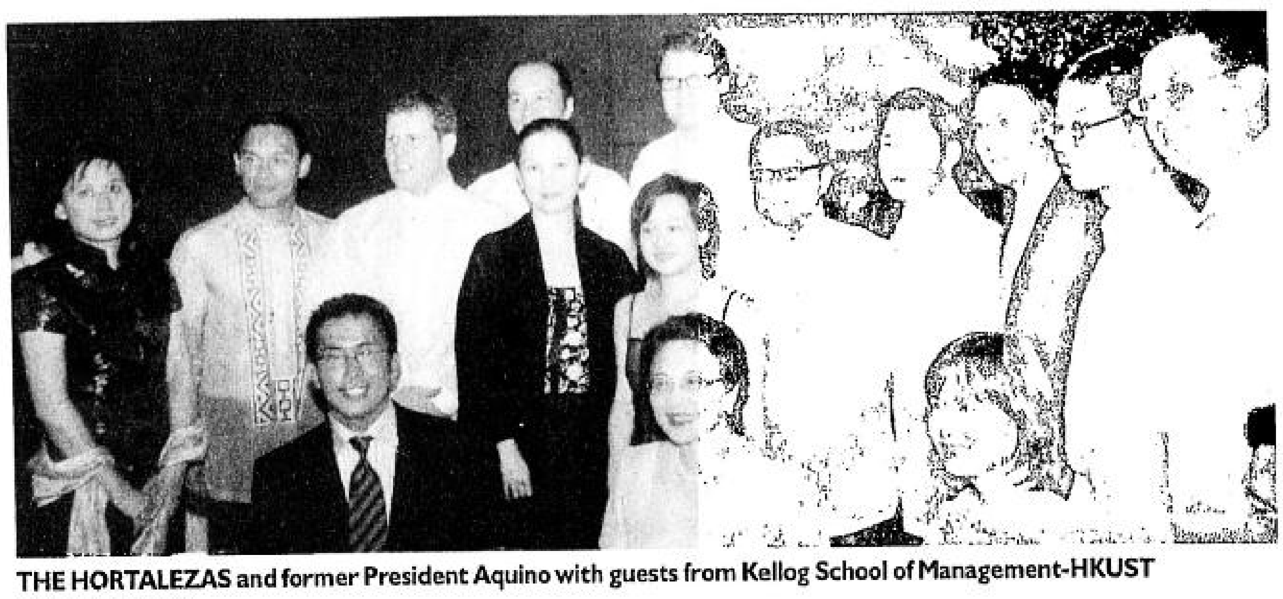
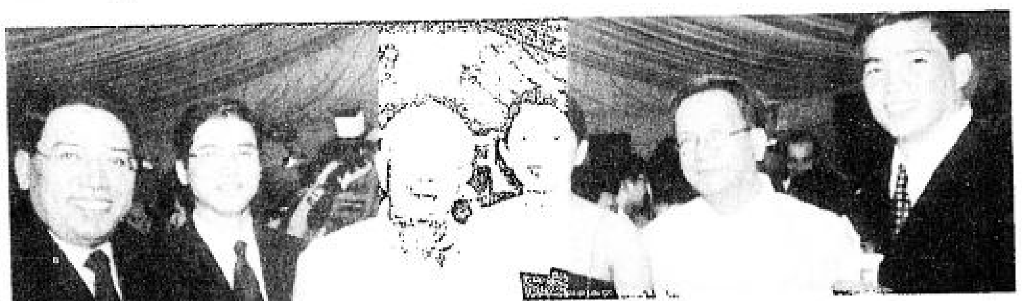

THE HORTALEZAS with INQUIRER's brilliant young president, Sandy Rufino Prieto Romualdez

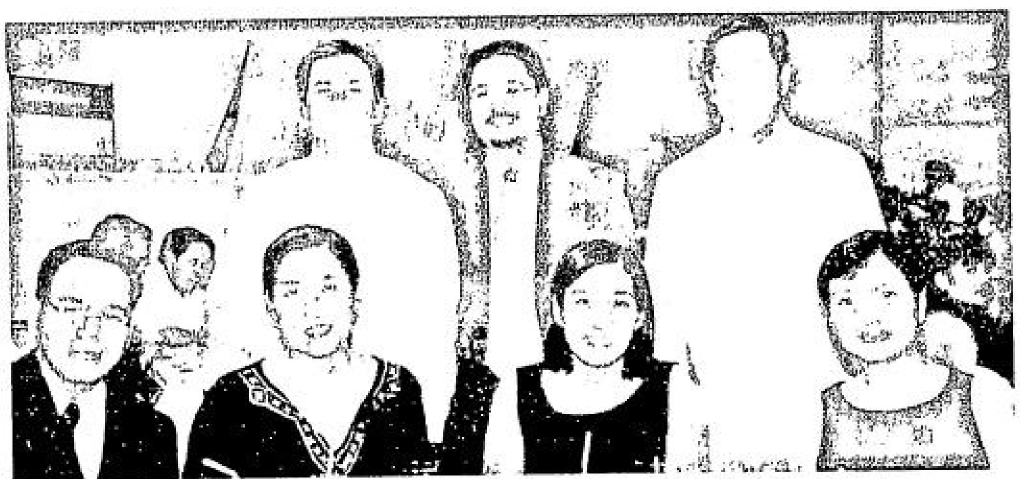
MEN of substance. GMA Network Inc.'s hotshots, lawyer Felipe Gozon and Gilberto Duavit

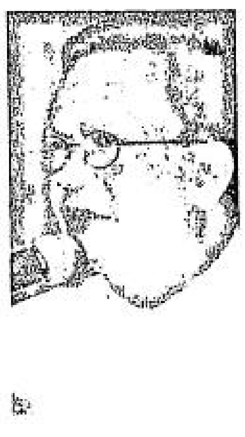
SO IN LOVE. "Magandang Umaga Pilipinas" hosts Julius Babao and his beauty, Tin-Tin Bersola

DR. ROLANDO Hortaleza and Dr. Rosalinda Hortaleza give a copy of the Splash 20th anniversary coffee-table book to former President Corazon Aquino.


THE HORTALEZAS and former President Aquino with guests from Kellog School of Management-HKUST Business School


ED PATRON, Ernest Perez, Jack Concepcion of Mercury Drug, Irma Deang, Mars Aaron and Sinforoso Soriano


SPLASH EXECUTIVES. Jay Jamias, Ruben John Buenaventura and Jody Gadia. Sitting: Jun Porte, Hope Gokongwei, Faith Gokongwei and Robina Gokongwei Pe, hot gals of Robinsons Retail Group


SPLASH Corp. COO Mars Aaron welcomes the invitees.

After 20 years, still making a big splash

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

GATHERING the country's Who's Who in society and business is something Splash Corp. does well. After all, Splash introduced hot mega brands such as Extraderm, Skin White and Biolink. Its recent happening at NBC Tent at The Fort marked its two decades of leadership in the personal care industry.

"Beyond the impressive numbers, it is Splash Corp.'s commitment to the Filipino that, I believe, constitutes the hallmark of their success," former President **Corazon Aquino** in her keynote speech to open the celebration, She described Splash's transformation from a P12,000 start-up backyard business into the multi-million enterprise it is today,

Splash chair and CEO, Dr. **Rolando Hortaleza**, and his wife, vice chair **Rosalinda Hortaleza**, welcomed the impressive guests, *palanggas*.

The grand highlight of this happening, *palanggas*, was the launch of Splash's exquisitely designed book, "Breaking the Glass Ceiling," a refreshing work of literature with impressive photos. Definitely a collector's item.

It was time to chill with the unforgettable high-energy performances of Filipino world-class talents, such as "the Engineer," **Leo Valdez**; classic vamp, gorgeous **Vernie Varga**; and Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong. Renowned prima ballerina **Lisa Macuja** led the dance numbers along with Ballet Manila.

Other notable guests were **Herbert Sy**, Rustan's top honcho **Bienvenido Tantoco III**, **Vivian Ascona Que**, trade and commercial attaché of Indonesia **Alexander Barrus**, Secretary **Michael Defensor**, **Balsy Aquino Cruz**, **Sherwin Gatchalian**, **Oscar Valenzuela**, **Beneson Lim**, **Grace Chuatengco**, **Eldon Cruz**, **Manolo Abelleda**, **Donald Patrick Lim**, ABS-CBN's **Luis Alejandro**, **Nic Cabunada**, **Orly Galang**, and **Dave Dominguez**.

Splash Corp. always manages to create a big splash in the important looking-and-feeling-good industry. This impressive and dynamic name will make more tidal waves in the future, *n'est past*! (as in, *di bala*!)

Iloilo model search

Iloilo's must-go-to mall, the Robinsons Place, held a successful model search, the grand finals of the "1st Campus Fashionista Model Search."

"This one-of-a-kind contest aims to redefine the model looks of Ilonggos and of the Filipinos. It will be the pool of upcoming models," said *trés charmante gid*, **Ditas Luzuriaga-Taleon**, the mall manager.

Over 200 applicants underwent three screenings. Of this number, 24 male and female finalists vied for the titles Campus Fashionista Male and Female Models 2005, and Male and Female Runners-up.

The Fountain Area was packed to capacity with Metro-Iloilo's crowd of fashionistas, society darlings and mall-goers, who were totally floored with this fabulous contest and fashion presentation, superbly directed by, talented **Sol Fernandez** and **Don Protasio**.

In the swimwear competition, the finalists modeled the military-inspired summer collection by **Frederick Peralta**; in the sportswear segment, they donned Adidas, Bayo and Blue Tab; and in the formal wear portion, they wore the elegant black suits and gorgeous red gowns by **Inno Sotto**-trained **Bo Parcon**.

Twenty-year-old stunner **Grendel Alvarado** of Bacolod totally floored the audience and us, judges, with her fabulous presence on the catwalk. She won the female title.

His boy-next-door looks worked positively for 19-year-old good-looker **Luigi Deocades** of Molo.

Head-turner **Wing Sze Tang**, 20, and **Rexie Ian Alla**, 19, emerged as runners-up.

All winners took home cash prizes and cool gift items from Robinsons Department Store, Adidas, Sunsilk, Axe, Close-Up, Moby Hotdogs, ACSI Business and Computer School, Blu Tab and Levi's.

All the judges were jetted in from Manille by the always-on-time Cebu Pacific, natch.

In the face of nasty rumors that the results might have been rigged. I've always said, *palanggas*, envy comes in many forms, *di bala*!

The event was made possible by Designers' Guild of Iloilo; **Jaki Peñalosa**; **Angelette Borja-Ragus** and Bo Parcon; St. Yves, courtesy of its proprietors, fun couple **Al** and **Beth Vicente**; fantastic excellent Italian resto Afrique's, where we had an excellent dinner hosted by its mega owner and talented chef **Miguel Cordova**; the fab super "in" bar and resto, Flow!, courtesy of vivacious **Engel** and **Cedric Loring**, and brother **Tata L.**; and Mang Inasal with its yum-yum chicken barbecue, provided by young businessman **Edgar Sia**, *palanggas*.

Manila Motor Show

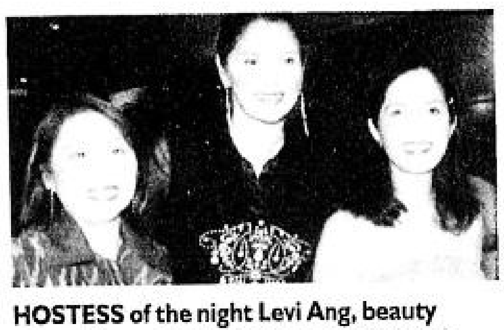
There they were, all those gorgeous big toys for those big boys: BMW, Toyota, Jaguar, Maserati, Mercedez-Benz and Volvo. The best of cars for the most discriminating buyers.

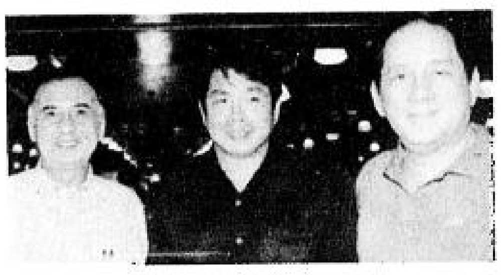
As scintillating as these dazzling cars were the A-list, hotshot guests who came in full buying force during the fab Buyers' Night, which was the highlight of the inaugural show's second successful day.

Worldbex Services International chair **Joseph Ang** and wife **Levi** welcomed the guests in the elegantly dressed Skyline of the World Trade Center. Among the namedroppables were **Pit** and **Pewee Morato**, **Edward Fereira**, good-looking **Mark Villar**, fun **Viring Ongkiko**, **Excy Robles**, and unmatchable **Louie Cruz**, plus other like them too well-known to mention, *palanggas*.

The Manila Motor Show gathered 21 of the coolest car brands around the world and a whooping 68,000 visitors during its fantastic three-day stint, *palanggas*.

POPULAR lawyer Albert Arcilla, Volvo president and CEO, holds his Best Exhibit Booth award beside the all-new gorgeous Volvo V50.


HOSTESS of the night Levi Ang, beauty queen Evangeline Pascual and ABS-CBN Foundation's hot gal Gina Lopez

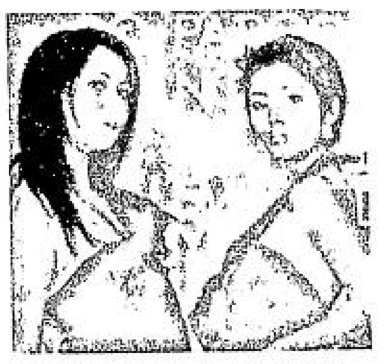

PIT MORATO, Excy Robles and PCSO chair Serge Valencia

SOCIALITES Chit Gohu, Fanny Blanco, host of the affair Joseph Ang and Monaco honorary consul Fortune Ledesma

SINGER Luke Mijares

"**CAMPUS** Fashionista" search 2005: first runner-up Rexie Ian Alla, male winner Luigi Deocades, female winner Grendel Alvarado and first runner-up Wing Sze Tang

ROBINSON'S Rofel John Parreño, stylish Deane Valero, Ria Bolivar, top couturier Bo Parcon, Panay News mega society writer John Castigador, and top party and event organizer Nonoy Ybiernas


FAVORITES Lakambini Balasa, Jo-anne Zaldivar...

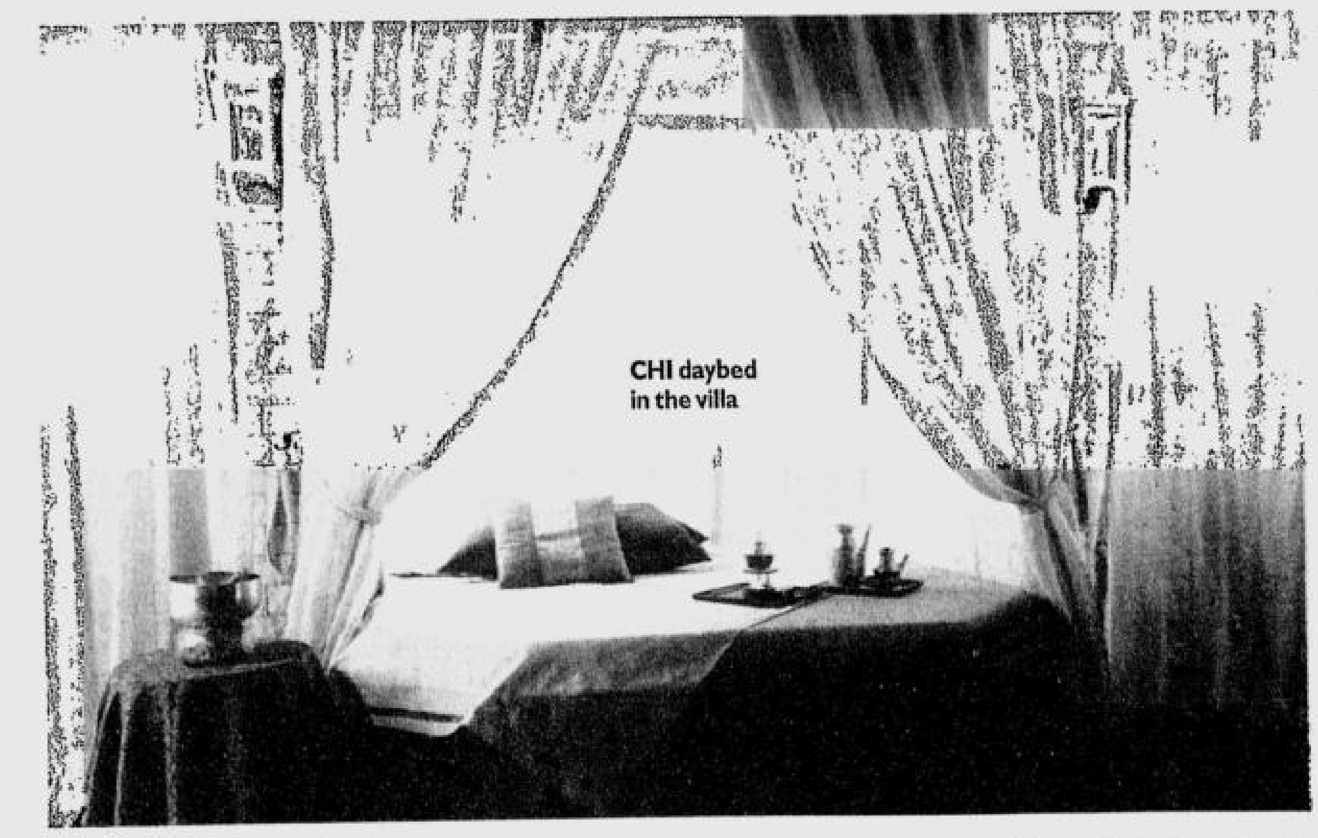
... **JOHN** Marcel Firmalino and Cyril Balberona

ROBINSON'S Land Corp. group manager Joseph Sian

WINNER Gym owner Erwin Chiongson

MODEL Wilma Doesnt (third from right) with Miss Philippines-Earth 2004 and 2005: Ma. Theresa Lavinia Fontanilla, Jemay Zacarias, Antoinette Stephanie Yu, Tamera Szuarto, Olivia Cortes and Shiela Alfonso

CAR LOVERS ALL. Annabelle Adriano, glamorous Mellie Ablaza, car collector Louie Ablaza, big-boy-who-loves-big-toys Consul Gen. Edward Fereira and businessman Martin de Leon



CHI daybed in the villa

Danish skincare expert in Manila Aug. 2

A SKINCARE specialist from Denmark will be in Manila for a series of talks on the latest dermatological breakthroughs.

Dr. Jana Vicanova, independent scientific consultant of Ferossan A/S Soeberg, Denmark, is scheduled to arrive in the country on August 2. She is involved in the formulation of the new line of skincare products from Imedeen, world-renowned brand leader in "skincare from within."

Vicanova took up her MSc Degree at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Charles University at Prague, Czech Republic, and finished her Ph.D. at the Department of Dermatology, Leiden University, Netherlands. She will be visiting several countries in Asia-Pacific to talk to consumers and the media about an exciting development in the Imedeen product line.

DR. Jana Vicanova

Cebu puts . . .

From page E1

resorts in the region a run for their money.

The spa-beauty-health lifestyle is a boom industry, with Asia at the forefront. Shangri-La Mactan alone, even before it opened the Spa Village, was already getting a considerable chunk of Korean, Japanese and Chinese tourists.

More and more leisure and luxury properties in Asia are going after the spa market—spa and everything that connotes getaway and rejuvenation.

Aside from Chi Spa and others (the Mandala Spa in Boracay, for example), the Philippines may just have found itself a lucrative niche—spa and beauty. We could be the newest and freshest spa/beauty destination in Asia. (**Ricky Reyes, Vicki Belo** and cosmetic surgeons are selling the Philippines as a beauty/holiday destination to the Fil-Ams in North America.)

The potential is apparently not lost on Shangri-La executives. Shangri-La Hotels/Resorts Philippines chair **Tom Zita** noted that the spa business is now an annual $2-billion industry worldwide. To be in that bandwagon, Shangri-La Mactan pulled all the stops in building the 10,000-sq-m Chi Spa Village. It spent $4 million in the close-to-a-year construction.

Different

But what's interesting is how the Chi Spa was positioned in the burgeoning industry. "We feel that we have to be different," said **Kay Kuok Goon**, executive director of the Shangri-La Hotels/Resorts International and the avowed "spaholic" among the Shangri-La executives.

"So since everybody else is offering the Thai, Balinese and other Asian treatments," said Kay, "we decided to play up the Shangri-La identity, which is the Himalayas."

The unique Chi Spa concept revolves around the centuries-old healing traditions and rituals from China and the Himalayas. There's the Himalayan Healing Stone Massage or the Mountain Tsampa Rub, for example. The Himalayan Healing Stone Massage uses hot stones heated in oils and herbs to restore vitality, and cool stones to balance stress. The Tsampa Rub is a barley scrub for skin rejuvenation.

The design team was inspired by China's highlands gardens and the architecture of Katmandu. The interiors bear Tibetan and Nepalese features such as the bronze lotus inlays on the pathways.

The guest robe is something to talk about. It's made of cashmere and is the fluffiest and softest thing there is. You wouldn't want to part with it—until you find out how much one costs.

I must admit the Chi Spa delivers just what it promises—serenity, relaxation, rejuvenation. It's right next to the tennis court, my favorite spot at Shangri-La. It thus felt weird that after giving vent to my competitive spirit on the court, I had to embrace serenity once I walked the few steps on the pathway leading to the Chi Spa Sanctum. Keeping still is always a heroic effort for me. At the Chi, it was no sweat. I felt so far away from the rest of the world.

The Sanctum is a three-story atrium housing the reception, boutique and lounge. Hanging down from the ceiling is a glass sculpture chandelier (glass from Eastern Europe). The village has pathways leading to concealed villas and pavilions, which you can imagine will be more concealed and cozier once the plants and trees grow lush.

Various therapies

The Chi has more than 30 specialized body, water, massage and facial therapies. It's proud of its water shiatsu. This is said to be Asia's first genuine shiatsu pool. You float in a warm water pool and enjoy the stretching and shiatsu-like massage. It's a feeling of weightlessness—even if you're 20 pounds overweight.

The villas have private patios, sunken bathing tubs and relaxing lounges. The Chi also has an infinity-edge vitality pool, herbal steam rooms, a spa pool and body scrub *salas*.

You start with the footbath—a mix of coco milk, mulberry tea, lemon grass. Then you can choose among the signature therapies that include Tropical Linen and Leaf Wrap, the "*hilot*" therapy, the Barako Coffee Bean Scrub. I chose the Herbal Harmony—a combination of Asian healing herbs wrapped in a heated linen pouch that's gently rolled on the body to relieve stressed muscles. It has the aroma vitality massage that's supposed to release the flow of chi energy into your mind and body.

I've always believed that apart from the treatment menu, what makes a spa good is its masseurs and masseuses. The spa is as good only as its masseur stable—how well trained it is. This is what has turned the Oriental Bangkok into an institution.

The Chi, I've found out, has good ones. They have been training since last September. Their strokes are neither too hard nor too light. They're smooth even as you feel the de-stressing pressure. Their hands are firm and warm, without being leaden. The massage is easily a most saleable art today.

Spa culture is relatively new to us, unlike the Thais. Also, unlike the Thais, we're not used to smooth, silent, if not muffled, movements, and not used at all to kneeling while serving the guests. At the Chi, however, the women staff give their distinct kind of service—it is gracious and cheery. That is the Filipino kind of spa.

In the quiet of Chi, you realize you can enjoy the greatest luxury-time. When you're there, you have time for yourself.

HIMALAYAN stone used in the massage

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COTTON USA

Rock to School

Concert and Raffle Promo

WINNERS

3 Winners- Canon Digital Ixus 40

Robert S.de Guia, Galas, Q.C., Stub no. 10720
Adrian Limjoco, Sta. Mesa, Manila ,Stub no. 28620
Jennifer Esguerra, Cubao, Q.C., Stub no. 31506

3 Winners- Nokia 6630

Nemia de Guzman, San Dionisio, Paranaque City, Stub no. 18206
Lezly Manginsay, Potrero, Malabon City, Stub no. 64318
Hara Rentoria, Sucat, Muntinlupa City, Stub no. 18696

3 Winners- Sony PSP

Emily Ferrer, Delpan, Manila, Stub no. 67377
Shyrill Estacio, Mandaluyong City, Stub no. 2924
Laura Santos, Phil-Am Homes, Q.C., Stub no. 57365

5 Winners- Apple Ipod Mini

Arlyn Quiapo, Camarin, Caloocan City, Stub no. 73534
Jerome Leonardo, Sta. Mesa Heights, Q.C., Stub no. 10407
Christopher Recaña, Paco, Manila, Stub no. 57480
Antonio Salazar, San Francisco Del Monte, Q.C., Stub no. 15119
Florentino dela Cruz, San Antonio Village, Makati City, Stub no. 67635

10 Winners- SM Gift Certificates worth P5,000.00

3619	Manuel Batto, Jr.	Pilar Village, Las Piñas
64883	Apretty Cablco	Binondo, Manila
1140	Erika Elaina C. Rotor	Pandacan, Manila
41684	Danilo Flores	Tondo, Manila
2382	Teresita Macapagal	Kawit,Cavite
62117	Katherine Consul	Angono, Rizal
5527	Ruel C. Arrabe	San Joaquin, Pasig
6989	Nanette Solis	BF Homes, Paranaque
6995	Floriza Gines	San Pedro, Laguna
41906	Cristina Vasquez	Santol St. Quezon City

10 Winners- National Bookstore Gift Certificates Worth P5,000.00

71084	Jeniveb Lacierda	Pael Subd., Q.C.
6007	Emelia Marcelo	Quirino Ave., Paranaque
6112	Alfredo Gustilo	Batasan Hills, Q.C.
70835	Anna Reyes	Tandang Sora, Q.C.
324	Evelyn Espiritu	San Bartolome, Novaliches
28993	Mariza Coronel	Balintawak, Q.C.
623	Lovely Ballescas	Bacoor, Cavite
48051	Maria Alfa Elea P. Manlapuz,	Sampaloc, Manila
7887	Lot C. Gonzalez	BF Resort, Las Piñas
6444	Bjorn Barry Bartolo	Aurora St. Pasay City

20 Winners- Odyssey Gift Certificates worth P2,000.00

962	Henry Mendoza	Agudo St. Caloocan City
18361	Ricky S. Cabael	Sampaloc, Manila
71250	Katrina Sy	Aurora St. Malabon
31143	Mirasol Bautista	Zapote, Las Piñas
6642	Ronald Soria	Sta. Ana, Manila
3363	Ma. Theresa Balingasay	San Pedro, Laguna
10641	Jean Bernal	Sta. Mesa, Manila
211	Marissa Padua	Sta. Mesa, Manila
10974	May Feliciano	Kawit, Cavite
26824	Grace C. Zabarte	Kamuning Road, Q.C.
1384	Maves Bulaybulay	Baesa, Q.C.
618	Alberto Guliod, Jr.	Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
10911	Marcelo Reyes	Malate, Manila
8396	Wendell Remandaban	Malate, Manila
71171	Prima Amparo	Sampaloc, Manila
8851	Joanette Jabat	Brgy Don Bosco, Parañaque
8399	Irene Anot	Tondo, Manila
72227	Rosalinda Reyes	Taytay, Rizal
60084	Annalie Byoc	SMH, Q.C.
61611	Ruth Faustino	Metroville, Pasig City

20 Winners- Starbucks Gift Certificates worth P2,000.00

4484	Art John Muriel	Tondo, Manila
6447	Jocel Gatchalian	Tramo St., Pasay City
18330	Donald Mariano	Olandes, Marikina City
3552	Anne Lorraine Ramon	Cubao, Q.C.
24015	Ivy Joy Ira	Bocaue, Bulacan
31914	Ma. Consuelo Navarro	Alabang, Muntinlupa City
48037	Carlo Alfonso	Progreso St. Pasay City
67340	Leilani Ramirez	Ermita, Manila
11228	Sally Torres	Biñan, Laguna
15034	Quirico Vibal	Stella Maris, Pasig City
10746	Rosario Oblo II	Sampaloc, Manila
5739	Teresita Siy	Talipapa, Q.C.
8701	Karen Cabacungan	Palanan, Makati City
8475	Sally Vitero	Mayamot, Antipolo
3419	Neil Bryan Eugenio	Rizal, Makati City
73159	Janilyn Pasman	Sta. Rosa, Laguna
1669	Joel Taojo	Susana Rd., Caloocan City
31596	Peter Jan Dornido	Dela Paz, Pasig City
71106	Janice Valenzuela	Malolos, Bulacan
10042	Teresa Ricafort	Balintawak, Q.C.

20 Winners- Pizza Hut Gift Certificates worth P2,000.00

28034	Lorenza Arroyo	Heroes Hill, Q.C.
72314	Almalyn dela Rama	Dela Rosa St, Makati City
73977	Michael S. Macalanda	Pasay City
70825	Michael Santos	Cubao, Q.C.
2040	Ryan R. Palomares	Multinational Village, Paranaque
15960	Glenn Toledo	Camella Homes, Las Piñas
67249	Conrado A. Cabatbat	Parañaque City
73498	Reynaldo Lubon, Jr.	Llano, Caloocan City
16469	Claudette M. Sylva	Pasay City
24037	Pilipina L. Santos	Caloocan City
15247	Romar Villanueva	Pinyahan, Q.C.
8047	Jerome Dunn	Better Living Subd., Parañaque City
48144	Jimar Cabrera	Novaliches, Q.C.
71017	Melanie Ocenar	Pasay City
61619	Gretchen Aya-ay	Palanan, Makati City
10078	Marcial Deogracias	Diliman, Q.C.
4753	Martino Ambos	San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
74189	Lourdes Castro	San Andres Bukid, Manila
10426	Raul B. Segun	Brgy. Culiat, Q.C.
31466	Hannah Inan	Sta. Ana, Taguig

20 winners- SM Cinema Gift Certificates worth P2,000.00

60017	Lyn Arbonel	Cubao, Q.C.
3593	Rommel de Guzman	Lipa City, Batangas
51706	Michael Anastacio	Commonwealth, Q.C.
51781	Jose I. Bello	Project 3, Q.C.
10539	Maximo Sumeg-ang	Silang, Cavite
3220	Nora D. Diana	Sampaloc, Manila
73517	Rex G. Ferrer	Novaliches, Q.C.
6151	Richard M. Millar	Mandaluyong City
29008	Rogelio Fontanilla, Jr.	Cabuyao, Laguna
38706	Odessa F. Morilla	Novaliches, Q.C.
74167	Mary Jane Del Monte	Pasay City
133	Nenita Dacquel	San. Agustin, Malabon City
19527	Irene Camacho	Camarin, Caloocan
67219	John Rex Laudiangco	Valenzuela City
6628	Edgar Badal	Bicutan, Taguig
9274	Helen Miranda	Araneta Ave., Q.C.
64599	Beatriz Villamor	Tatalon, Q.C.
24337	Nicolo Bondoc	BF Resort, Las Piñas
70841	Bryan Sanchez	Luzon Ave, Q.C.
61146	Carlina S. Rama	Ayala Ave, Makati

Congratulations to all the winners!
A notification letter with instructions on how, when and where to claim prizes will be sent over very soon.

DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.1408, SERIES 2005.

COTTON USA Rock-to-School concert and raffle is stitched together in cooperation with

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

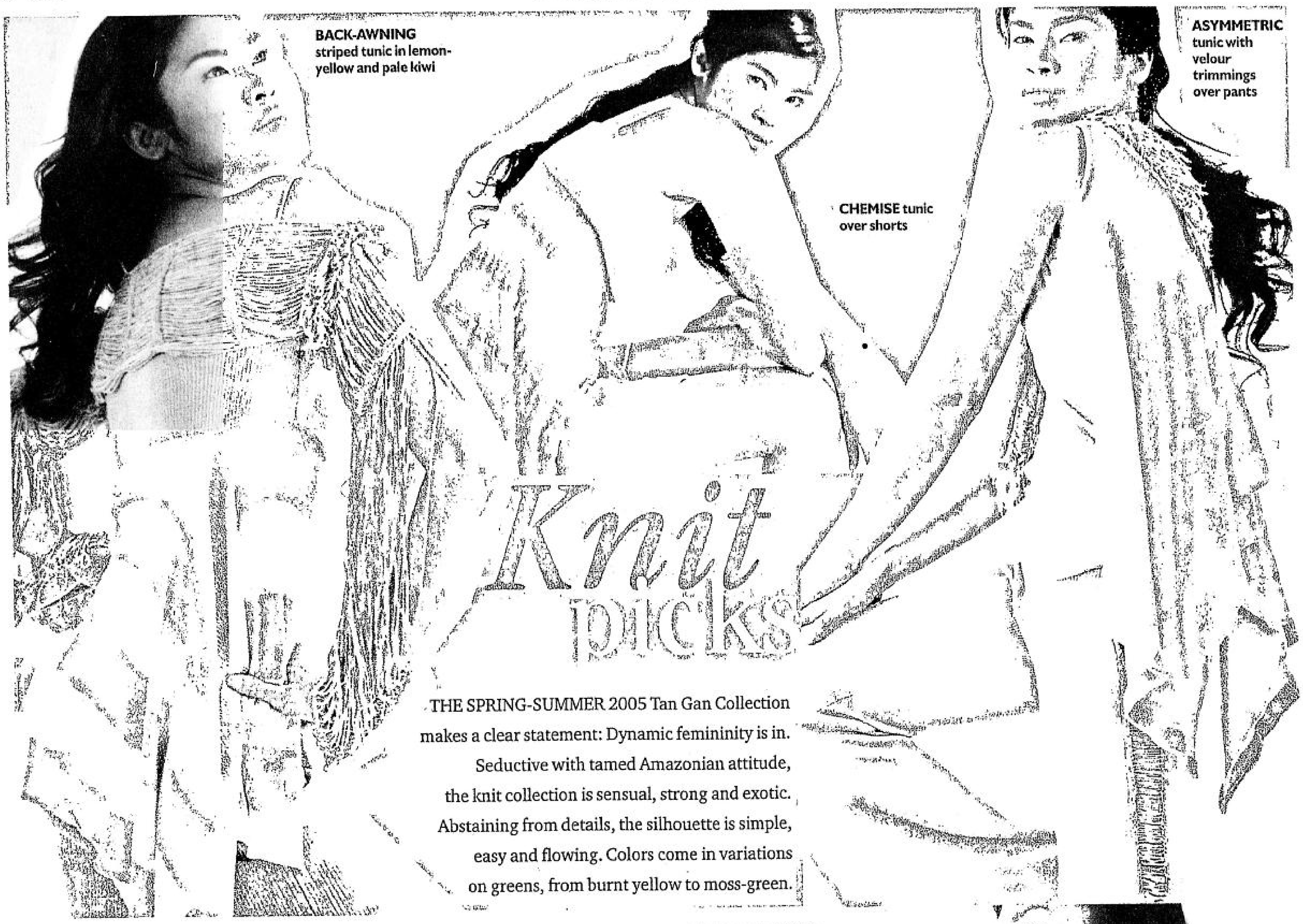
crissa

Wrangler

MONSTER RADIO RX 93.1

COTTON USA

Nothing Feels Like This.



BACK-AWNING striped tunic in lemon-yellow and pale kiwi

CHEMISE tunic over shorts

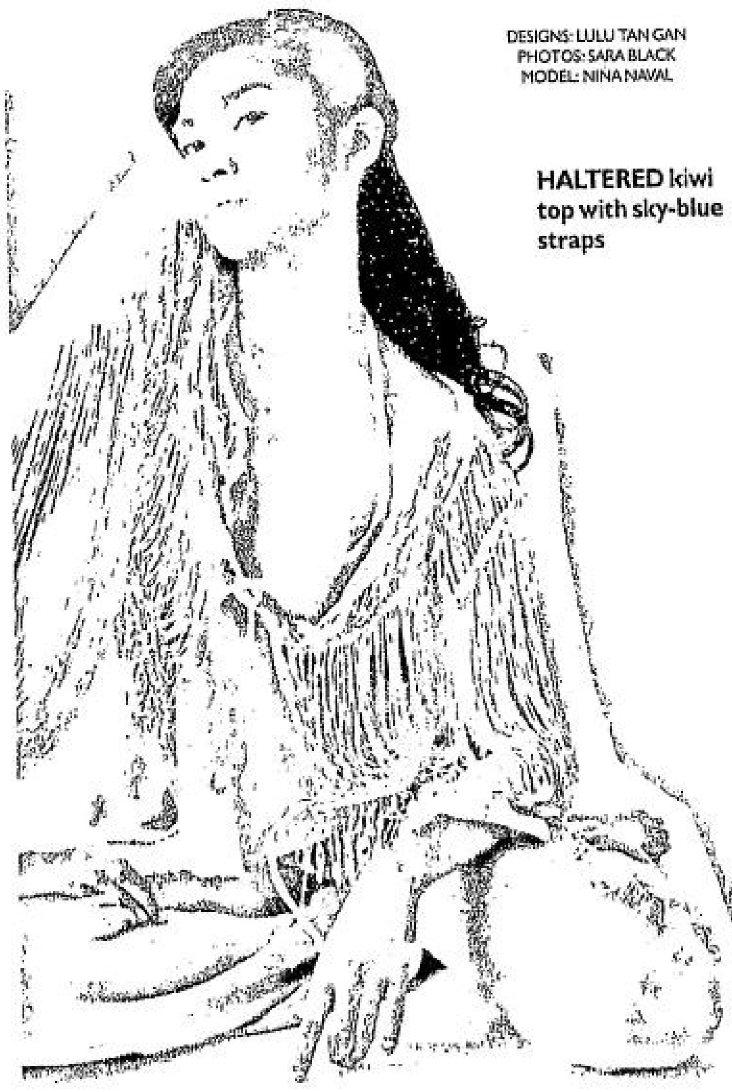
ASYMMETRIC tunic with velour trimmings over pants

Knit picks

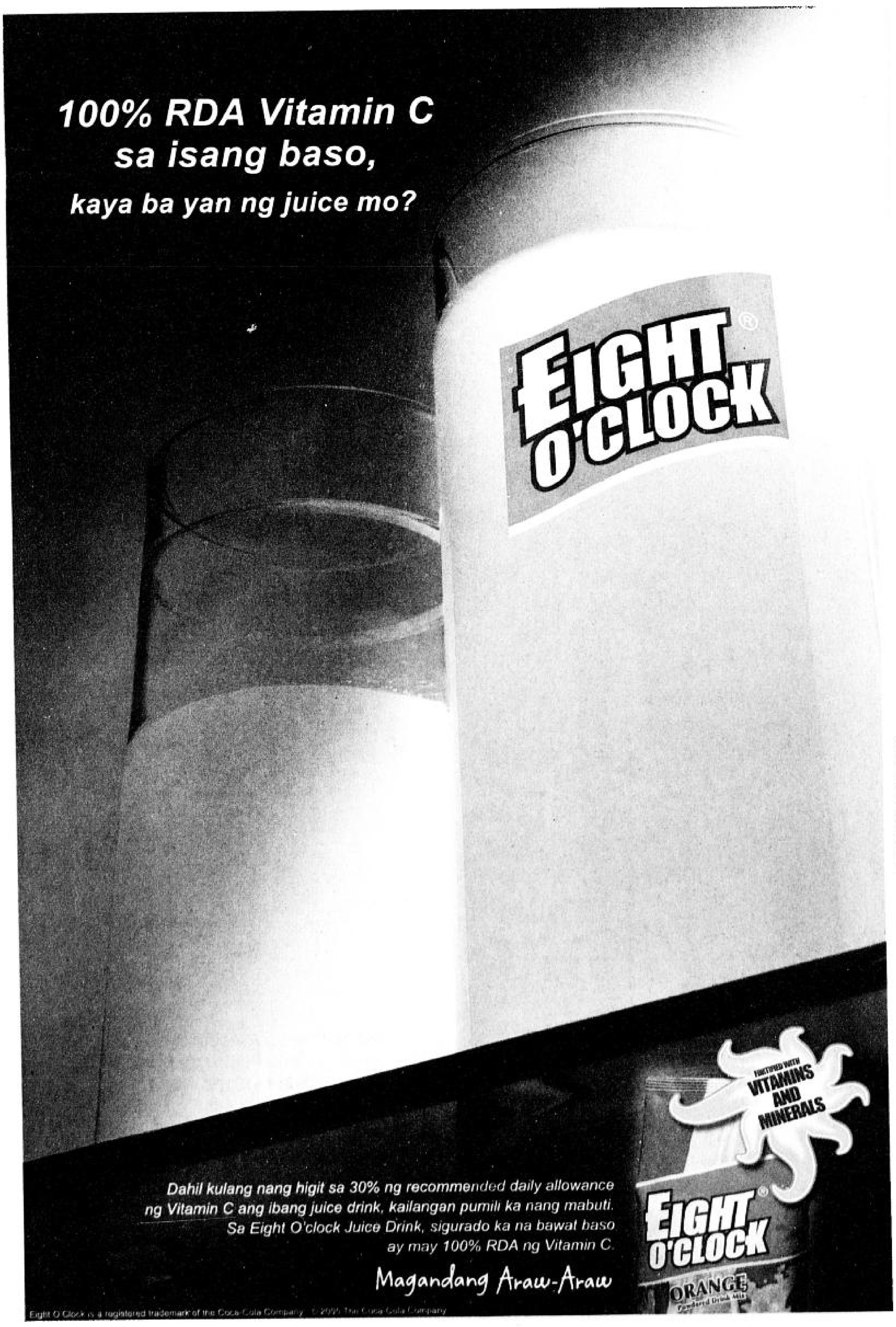
THE SPRING-SUMMER 2005 Tan Gan Collection makes a clear statement: Dynamic femininity is in. Seductive with tamed Amazonian attitude, the knit collection is sensual, strong and exotic. Abstaining from details, the silhouette is simple, easy and flowing. Colors come in variations on greens, from burnt yellow to moss-green.

VELVET V-neck and drop-waisted back knot

DESIGNS: LULU TAN GAN
PHOTOS: SARA BLACK
MODEL: NINA NAVAL



HALTERED kiwi top with sky-blue straps



100% RDA Vitamin C sa isang baso,
kaya ba yan ng juice mo?

Dahil kulang nang higit sa 30% ng recommended daily allowance ng Vitamin C ang ibang juice drink, kailangan pumili ka nang mabuti. Sa Eight O'clock Juice Drink, sigurado ka na bawat baso ay may 100% RDA ng Vitamin C.

Magandang Araw-Araw

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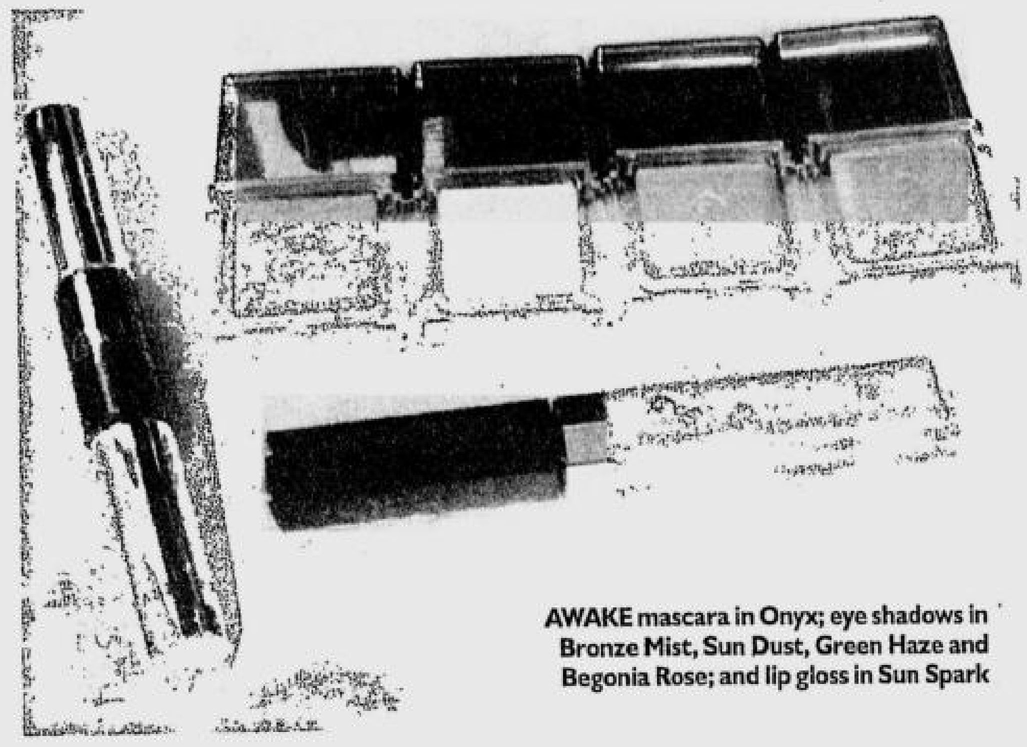
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



AWAKE mascara in Onyx; eye shadows in Bronze Mist, Sun Dust, Green Haze and Begonia Rose; and lip gloss in Sun Spark

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naturally & permanently
beautiful with

LET'S FACE IT

3D Permanent Make Up

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See and experience the difference!

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THE ONE STOP FACIAL SALON

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ELSIE GATCHES VILLAGE & HOME FOR THE AGED

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CORBY I, BLDG. LIBIS / Tel. 634-2223
(Across Eastwood Entrance)
2/F FBR BLDG., KATIPUNAN /434-9035
(Across Ateneo)

SOON TO OPEN: SM MOLINO • VALENZUELA & MALL OF ASIA

Skincare and beauty items at a bargain

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

FOR THOSE who still don't know, now is a great time to go cosmetics shopping at Essenses and Rustan's cosmetics floor. The two are my favorite spots for skincare and makeup hunting. Running low on shampoo and conditioner, I went into hoard mode and made a beeline for my favorite brands. I was going around and realized that most of my favorite brands were 10-percent off for FSP (frequent shoppers) members until July 31.

Hair care: At Essenses, I made a beeline for Korres and got my Sage and Nettle shampoo for oily hair. It cleans my oily scalp but is very gentle on my over-processed hair strands, making my top smell like fresh guava the whole day. Undoubtedly, L'Occitane makes the best-smelling shampoos that deliver great results. You take a shower, open the bathroom door and the sensual aroma wafts across the room.

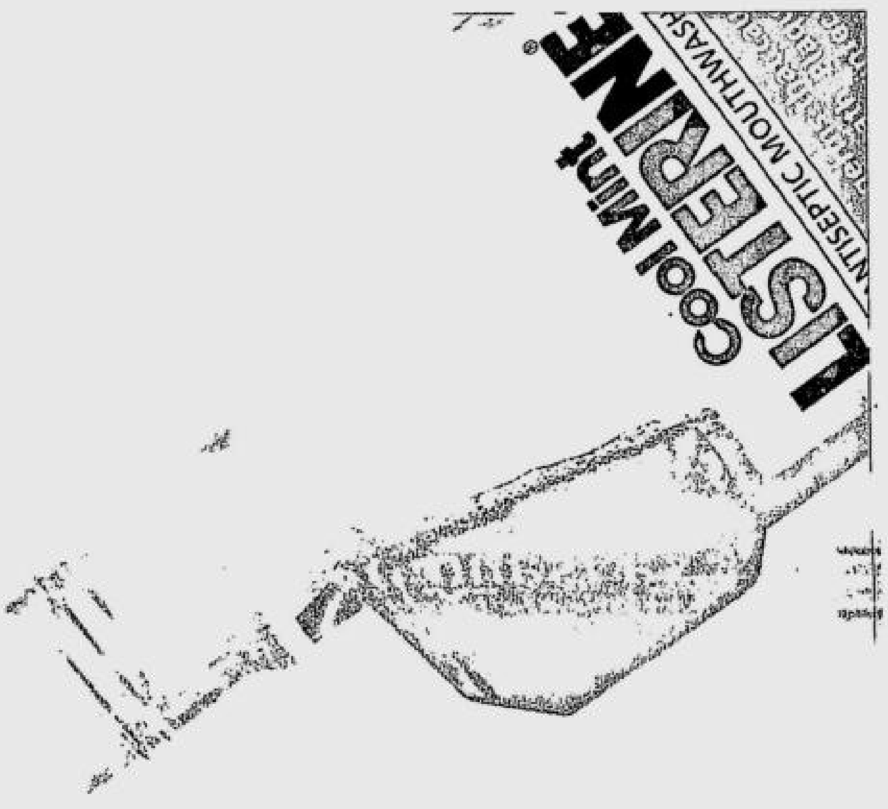
I also got Artemisia Shampoo for fine/limp hair and Angelica Conditioner for dry damaged ends. For citrus lovers, Verbena Shampoo and conditioner are the newest additions. Verbena leaves your hair smelling clean while feeling soft and manageable.

Lee Stafford's Poker Straight hair care line—with shampoo, conditioner, anti-frizz spray, flat iron shine mist and glistening straightening balm—is perfect for those who want to flaunt their straight, water-shiny locks. Those with curly hair can achieve that professional rebonded look with this entire arsenal.

Body care: For cellulite treatment, Apivita, like Korres, is another Greek brand with an aroma-therapeutic touch. I got the Metamorphosis (anti-cellulite) line (the body scrub has sea

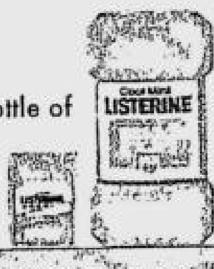
SKINCARE/ F4

A chance to experience training at the .
FASHION INSTITUTE
of the Philippines
Half-day seminars for beginners:
Fashion Design or Basic Pattern July 31 2-6PM
Fee-P750.each (materials included).
Can be credited towards the full fee for a course
Reservations required.
August - September Schedule
Once-a-week Schedule:
Basic Fashion Design -starts Aug22 (6 Mon.) 9-6
Basic Pattern Making -starts Aug23 (6 Tue.) 9-6
Advance Pattern -starts Oct 5 (6 Wed) 9-6
Haute Couture -starts Oct 6 (6 Thu.) 9-6
P8000. / course
P7200./ course if taking 2 courses
P6500./course (P26,000) Designer Package - if enrolled in all 4 courses (1 or 2 course at a time)
Men's Wear -starts Aug22 (6 Mon.) 9-6
Children's Wear -starts Aug26 (6 Fri.) 9-6
Saturday Schedule:
Basic Fashion Design -starts Aug27 (12 Sat.) 9-1
Basic Pattern Making -starts Aug27 (12 Sat.) 2-6
Sewing - Schedule of your choice. P6000.
Enroll Now! Only 10 students admitted per class.
Cell: 0927 330 2108 Tel: 635 5383
1 San Miguel Ave. Cor. Shaw Blvd. Unit 2803



Fast cash
for any need
or any occasion,
anytime, anywhere.

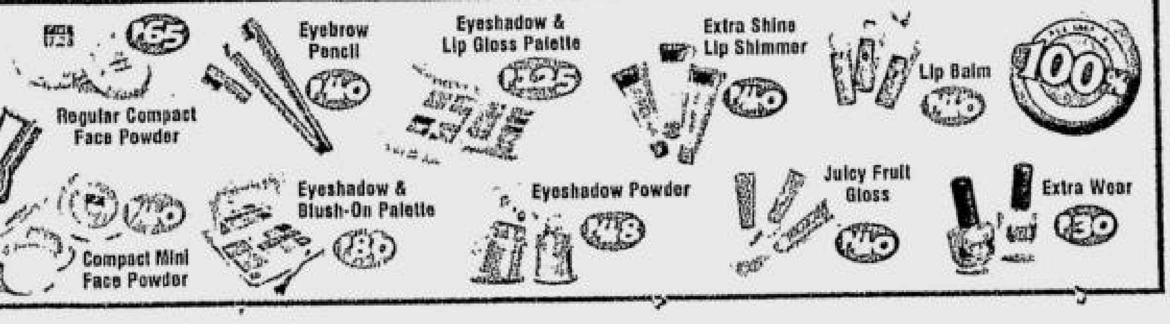
CASH2GO
The BEAT [illegible]
Call 8 200-200 [illegible]



Get one Coolmint Listerine PocketPaks free with every bottle of Listerine 500mL and 750mL Mouthwash.

99.9% Clean. 99.9% Confidence.

HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS ONLY. AVAILABLE AT LEADING SUPERMARKETS AND DRUGSTORES NATIONWIDE



CARE LINE

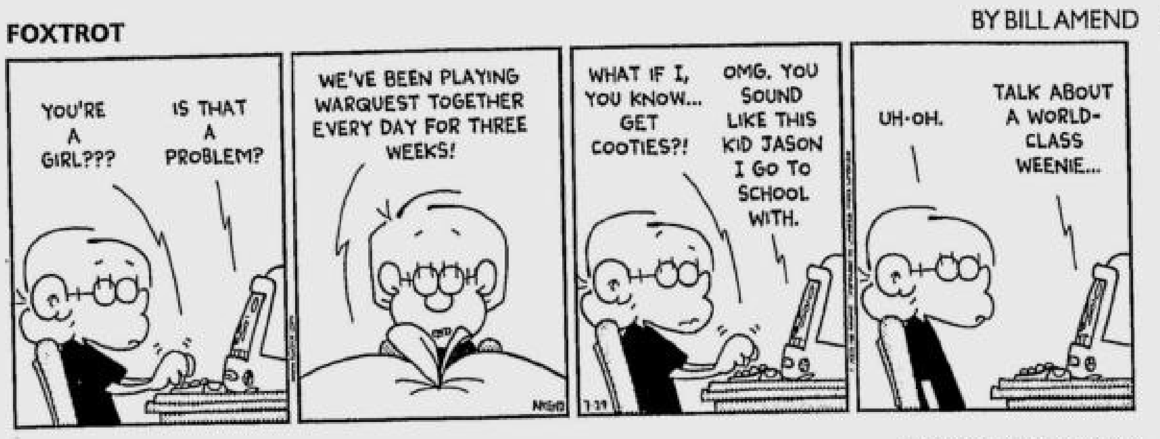
www.everbilena.com

PRETTILICIOUS!
pretty all-over!

AVAILABLE AT LEADING DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE!

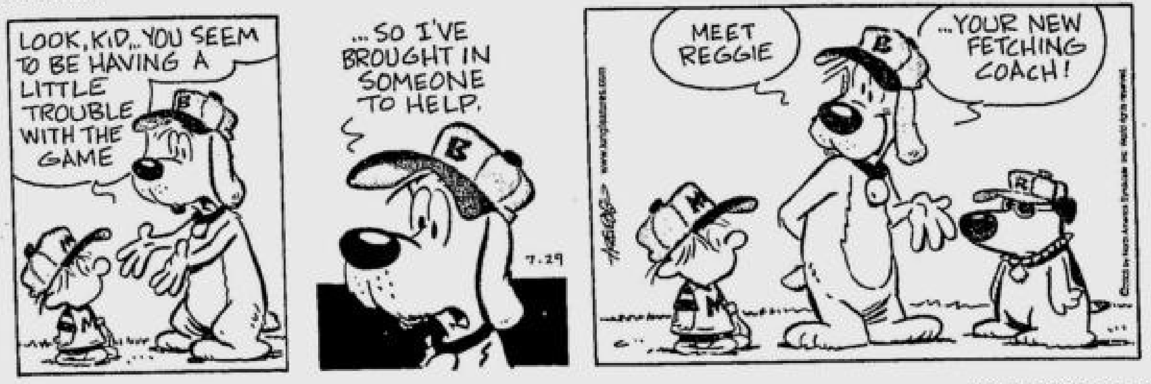
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU'RE A GIRL???
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
WE'VE BEEN PLAYING WARQUEST TOGETHER EVERY DAY FOR THREE WEEKS!
WHAT IF I, YOU KNOW... GET COOTIES?!
OMG. YOU SOUND LIKE THIS KID JASON I GO TO SCHOOL WITH.
UH-OH.
TALK ABOUT A WORLD-CLASS WEENIE...

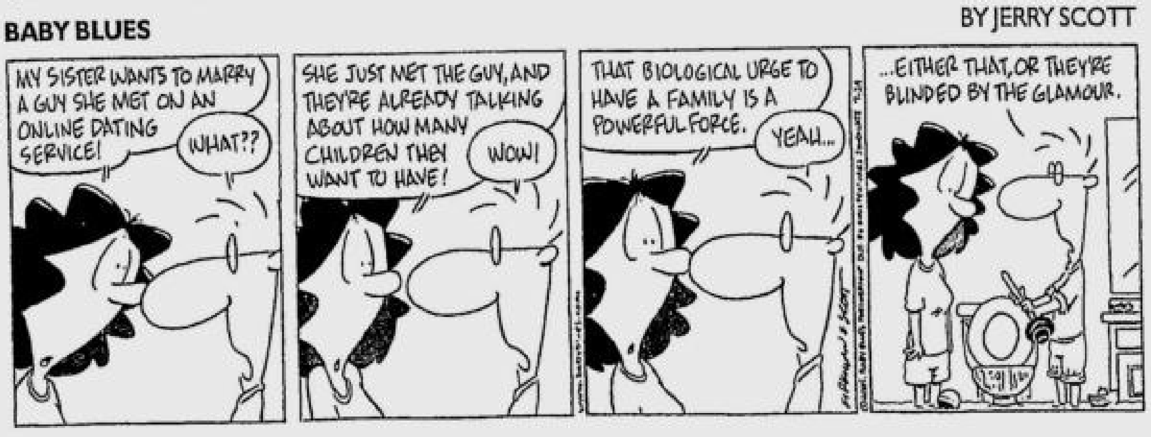
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


LOOK, KID... YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH THE GAME
...SO I'VE BROUGHT IN SOMEONE TO HELP.
7-29
MEET REGGIE
...YOUR NEW FETCHING COACH!

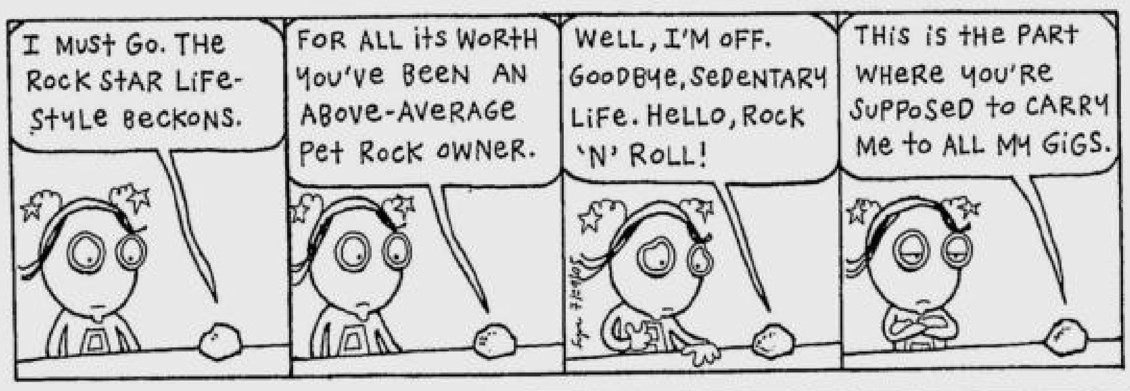
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MY SISTER WANTS TO MARRY A GUY SHE MET ON AN ONLINE DATING SERVICE!
WHAT??
SHE JUST MET THE GUY, AND THEY'RE ALREADY TALKING ABOUT HOW MANY CHILDREN THEY WANT TO HAVE!
WOW!
THAT BIOLOGICAL URGE TO HAVE A FAMILY IS A POWERFUL FORCE.
YEAH...
...EITHER THAT, OR THEY'RE BLINDED BY THE GLAMOUR.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I MUST GO. THE ROCK STAR LIFE-STYLE BECKONS.
FOR ALL ITS WORTH YOU'VE BEEN AN ABOVE-AVERAGE PET ROCK OWNER.
WELL, I'M OFF. GOODBYE, SEDENTARY LIFE. HELLO, ROCK 'N' ROLL!
THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CARRY ME TO ALL MY GIGS.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a natural enthusiasm that attracts others. People look to you for leadership. You often travel or deal with people from other countries and cultures. Always a fighter for the underdog, you're not afraid to voice your opinions. You want to be successful. You can enjoy a friendly, social year ahead. Relationships are blessed!

Birthdate of: Peter Jennings, TV journalist; Rachel Miner, actress; Geddy Lee, musician.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to make long-range plans about financial matters. You might also want to start to save for something you want to buy in the future.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can get a lot done today. The Moon is in your sign, making a lovely aspect to steady Saturn. This makes you practical and industrious today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day to clear up old business. You might find new solutions for old problems. Be open to resourceful ways of doing things. (Many roads lead to the truth.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Discussions with someone older or more experienced might be very helpful for you today. You could learn something important that will benefit you for a long time.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): If you speak out about something today, others will definitely hear you. They might not agree, but they'll hear you. Therefore, temper your words so that more people will understand what you're saying.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day to ask yourself if you're a victim of your own routine. Although it's good to plow a straight furrow, you could end up in a rut!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone wants your opinion about shared possessions and the joint ownership of things. Maybe you should just let things go.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): With the Moon and Mars opposite your sign, and the Sun at high noon in your chart, this is a powerful time for you. Wait to see what others do before you act.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day for detail work or doing anything that requires your focus and attention. You have the willingness and patience to stick to your task.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day for parents to make long-range plans about children and their care. Divorced couples might reach an agreement today about these matters.

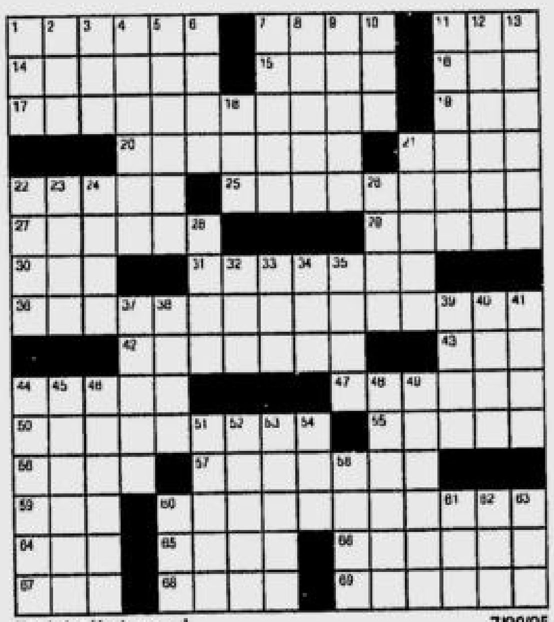
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Invite family members over today. Look for ways to keep the peace. Remember that family is forever; it's always easier to get along.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can't hear others if you're doing all the talking. (But you know that.) Work to establish a pleasant give-and-take between people who are at odds right now.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Foot part
7 Snack between meals
11 Today's OSS
14 Issue from a source
15 Noun-forming suffix
16 Picnic pest
17 Rotating seat
19 Mach topper
20 Province on Lake Erie
21 Drag along
22 Biblical verb
25 Platter player
27 Reprimand
29 Ticked off
30 Check fig.
31 Overthrew
36 Lighthouse feature
42 Come forth
43 Fla. city, for short
44 The present time
47 Mex-Tex wrap
50 Maelstrom
55 Tipper and Al
56 Nuptial vows
57 Thinks the world of
59 X
60 Information management
64 Is qualified to
65 Haleakala's island
66 Win with a bold stroke
67 Otto I's realm: abbr.
68 Collected charity
69 Address to a royal

DOWN
1 Fingers
2 Just out
3 Indian title
4 Gardens of Copenhagen
5 Olympics categories
6 Hide
7 India's first prime minister
8 Broadcasting
9 Descendant
10 One of the girls
11 Variety of melon
12 Affront
13 Churchill's successor
18 Cool dude
21 Sound in "corn" and "cob"
22 Hot tubs
23 Dromedary feature
24 Freeze preceder?
26 Wedding-cake layer
28 Wahine's dance
32 W-2 form info
33 Actress Hagen
34 Squeal
35 Painter Mondrian
37 Back ends
38 __ nitrate
39 Open a bit
40 Closeout, e.g.
41 Old wives
44 Muscle spasm
45 My, my, my
46 Family of Canadian quintuplets
48 Bureau
49 Actor Zero
51 Of the Holy See
52 Intense hatred
53 Former Dodges
54 DMV document
58 Wander
60 Wee in Dundee
61 Australian joey
62 Collective possessive
63 Inc. in Islington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By John Underwood
New York, NY

7/29/05

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	S	P	O	■	D	R	O	P	■	H	O	O	P	S
O	L	E	O	■	O	I	L	S	■	I	N	U	R	E
N	O	T	H	I	N	G	I	S	■	M	E	T	E	D
S	T	E	■	L	E	A	N	T	O	■	■	F	A	A
■	■	R	I	L	E	■	■	■	D	E	P	I	C	T
I	M	P	O	S	S	I	B	L	E	T	O	T	H	E
S	E	A	N	■	■	S	O	L	O	E	D	■	■	■
M	A	N	■	S	A	L	O	O	N	S	■	W	H	O
■	■	■	C	A	D	E	T	S	■	■	R	O	O	T
D	O	E	S	N	O	T	H	A	V	E	T	O	D	O
E	A	S	T	E	R	■	■	■	A	X	E	D	■	■
O	F	T	■	■	N	O	S	T	R	A	■	I	P	O
D	I	A	N	A	■	I	T	H	I	M	S	E	L	F
A	S	T	E	R	■	S	E	R	E	■	A	S	O	F
R	H	E	T	T	■	E	M	U	S	■	O	T	T	S

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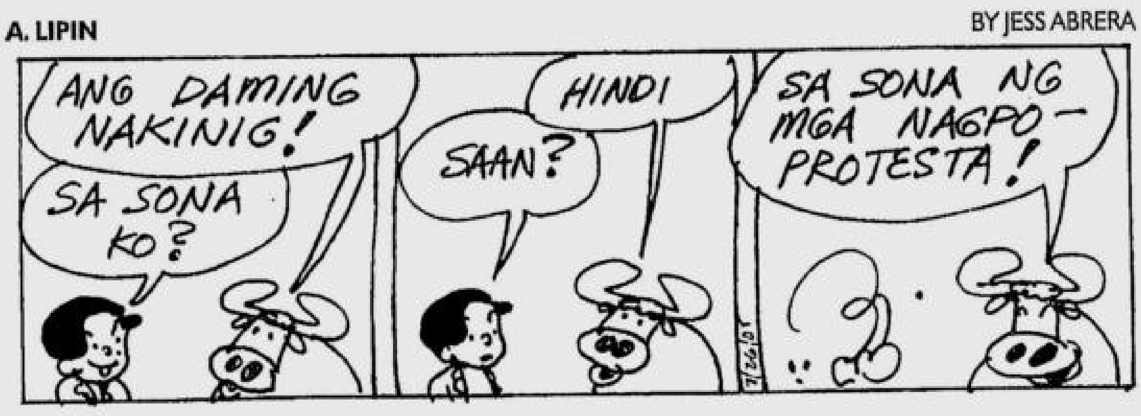
7/29/05

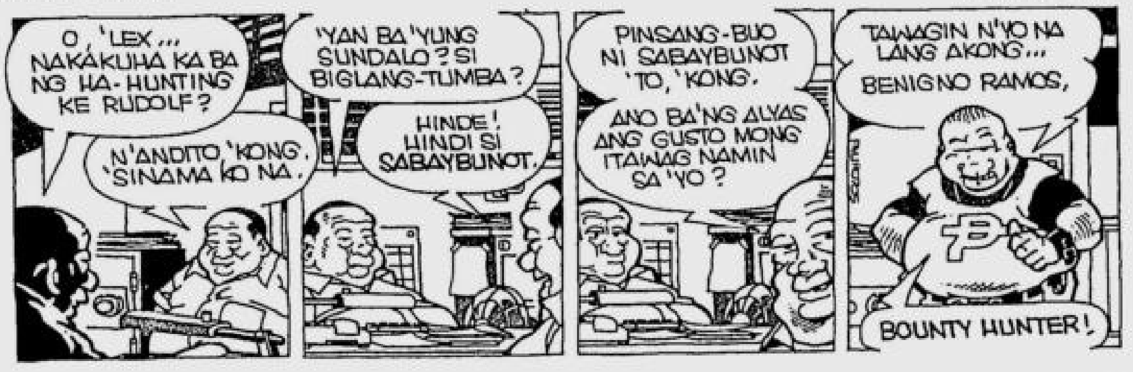
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMING NAKINIG!
SA SONA KO?
SAAN?
HINDI
7/26/05
SA SONA NG MGA NAGPO-PROTESTA!

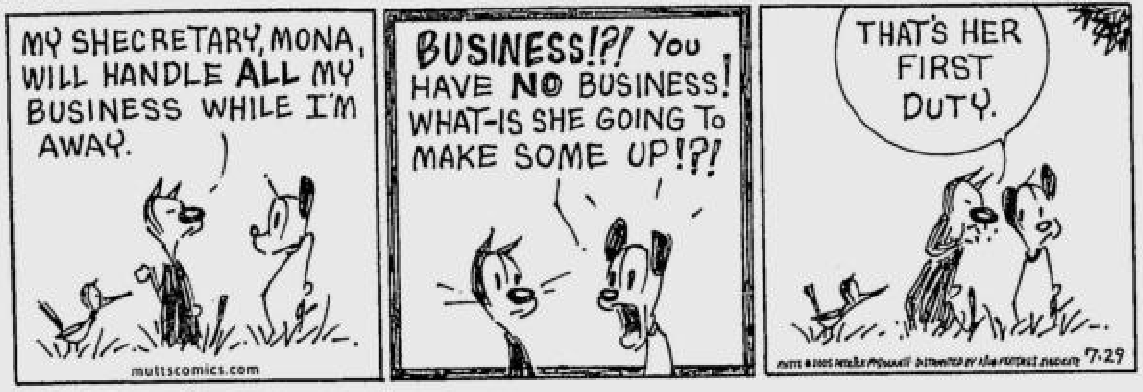
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, 'LEX... NAKAKUHA KA BA NG HA-HUNTING KE RUDOLF?
N'ANDITO, 'KONG. 'SINAMA KO NA.
'YAN BA 'YUNG SUNDALO? SI BIGLANG-TUMBA?
HINDE! HINDI SI SABAYBUNOT.
PINSANG-BUO NI SABAYBUNOT 'TO, 'KONG.
ANO BA'NG ALYAS ANG GUSTO MONG ITAWAG NAMIN SA 'YO?
TAWAGIN N'YO NA LANG AKONG... BENIGNO RAMOS,
BOUNTY HUNTER!

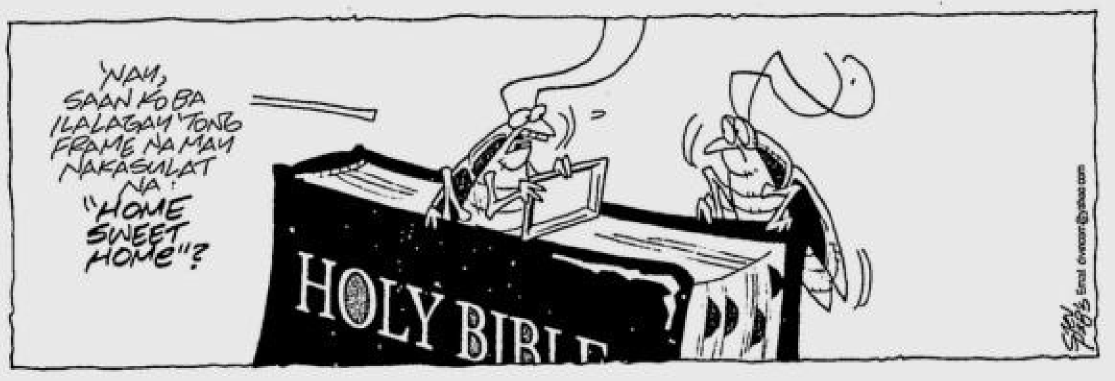
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MY SHECRETARY, MONA, WILL HANDLE ALL MY BUSINESS WHILE I'M AWAY.
muttscomics.com
BUSINESS!?! YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS! WHAT-IS SHE GOING TO MAKE SOME UP!?!
THAT'S HER FIRST DUTY.
7-29

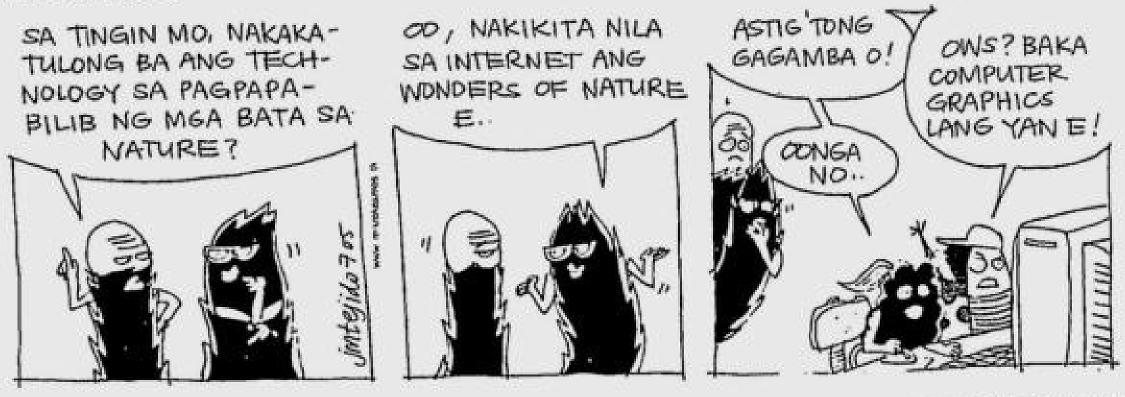
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


'NAY, SAAN KO BA ILALAGAY 'TONG FRAME NA MAY NAKASULAT NA: "HOME SWEET HOME"?
HOLY BIBLE

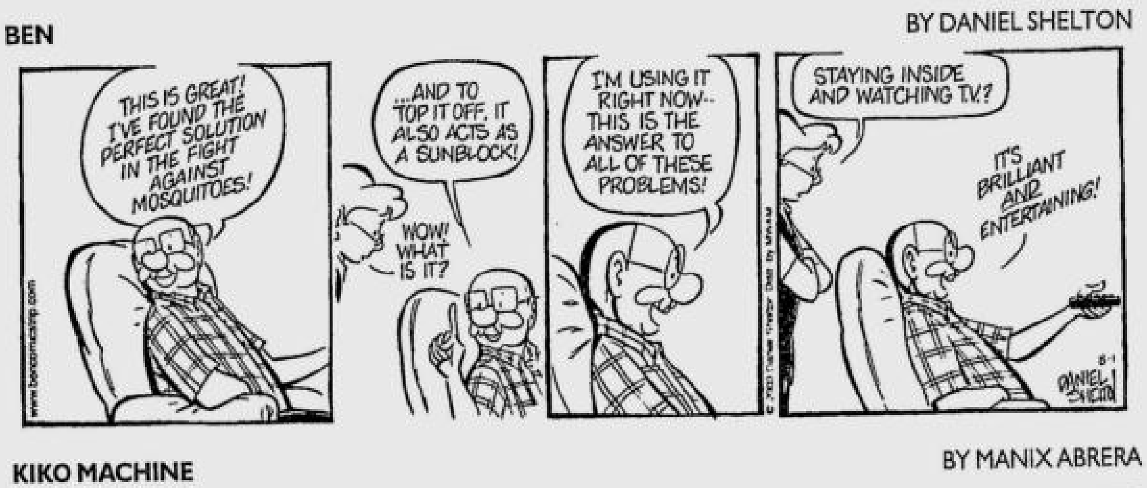
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA TINGIN MO, NAKAKA-TULONG BA ANG TECH-NOLOGY SA PAGPAPA-BILIB NG MGA BATA SA NATURE?
OO, NAKIKITA NILA SA INTERNET ANG WONDERS OF NATURE E..
ASTIG 'TONG GAGAMBA O!
OONGA NO..
OWS? BAKA COMPUTER GRAPHICS LANG YAN E!

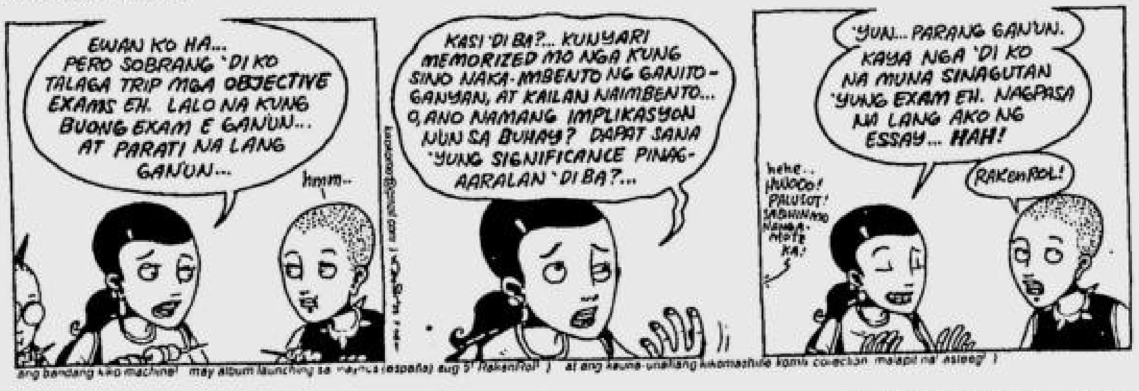
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS IS GREAT! I'VE FOUND THE PERFECT SOLUTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MOSQUITOES!
WOW! WHAT IS IT?
...AND TO TOP IT OFF, IT ALSO ACTS AS A SUNBLOCK!
I'M USING IT RIGHT NOW-- THIS IS THE ANSWER TO ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS!
STAYING INSIDE AND WATCHING T.V.?
IT'S BRILLIANT AND ENTERTAINING!

KIKO MACHINE

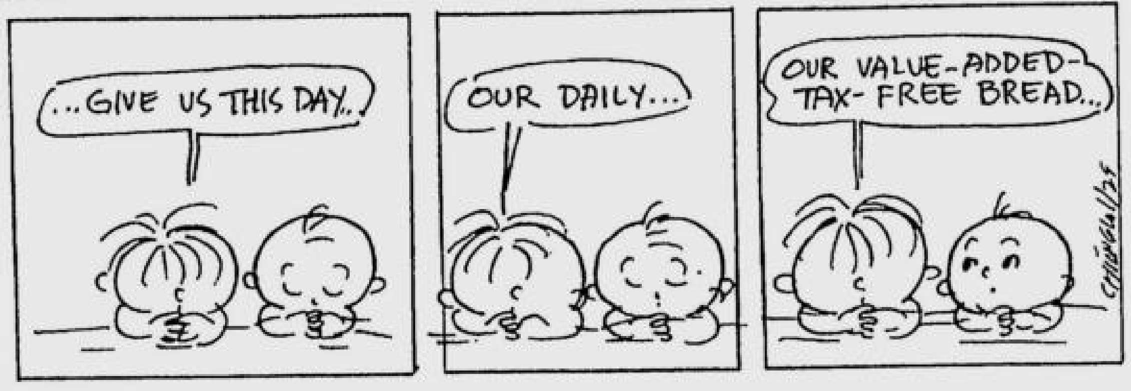
BY MANIX ABRERA


EWAN KO HA... PERO SOBRANG 'DI KO TALAGA TRIP MGA OBJECTIVE EXAMS EH. LALO NA KUNG BUONG EXAM E GANUN... AT PARATI NA LANG GANUN...
hmm..
KASI 'DI BA?... KUNYARI MEMORIZED MO NGA KUNG SINO NAKA-IMBENTO NG GANITO-GANYAN, AT KAILAN NAIMBENTO... O, ANO NAMANG IMPLIKASYON NUN SA BUHAY? DAPAT SANA 'YUNG SIGNIFICANCE PINAG-AARALAN 'DI BA?...
'YUN... PARANG GANUN. KAYA NGA 'DI KO NA MUNA SINAGUTAN 'YUNG EXAM EH. NAGPASA NA LANG AKO NG ESSAY... HAH!
hehe.. HUUCO! PALUSOT! SABIHIN MO NANAMOTE KA!
RAKenROL!

ang bandang kiko machine! may album launching sa mayrics (españa) aug 5! 'RakenRol!') at ang kauna-unahang kikomachine komik colection malapit na! astig!)

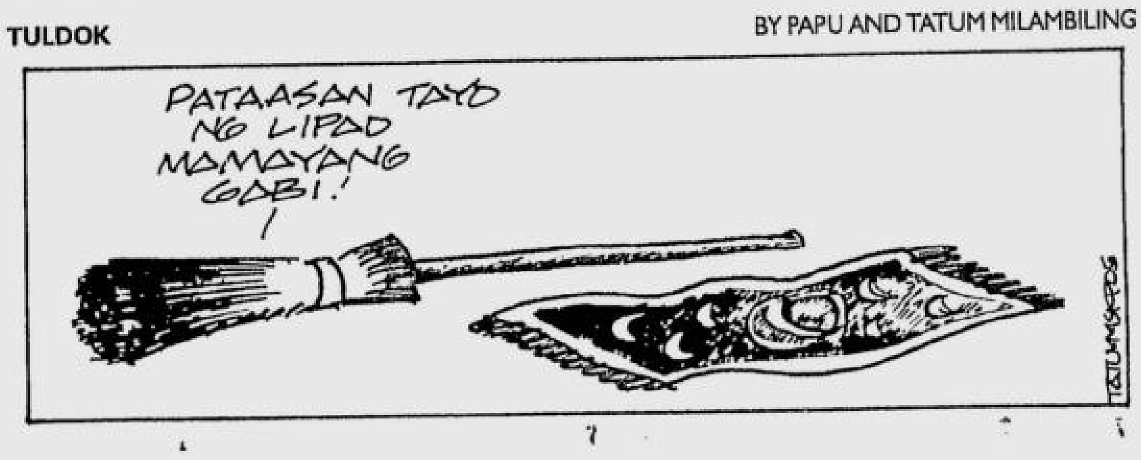
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


...GIVE US THIS DAY..
OUR DAILY...
OUR VALUE-ADDED-TAX-FREE BREAD...

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PATAASAN TAYO NG LIPAD MAMAYANG GABI!

SKIN_PRIVATE Joyce has reasonably priced new fragrances for the high-powered woman and the metrosexual man.

Scents of success

SKIN_Private Joyce has something for both the high-powered woman and the metrosexual man who want to stand out in their professions or in campus.

Five new scents—three for women and two for men—are the latest budget-friendly offerings of The General Bath and Body Company, Inc. Prices start at P50 for the 60-ml bottle.

Sultry is for the thoroughly modern woman, with top citrus notes of bergamot and mandarin, rounded out by a floral blend of artemesia, neroli flower, peony, freesia, violet leaves, juniper berry and muguet.

The darkly mysterious Seduction is a green-citrus spice-and-fruit blend of florals with top-notes of bergamot, tangerine, black pepper, saffron and blueberry. Completing the fragrance is a subtle touch of magnolia and cedar wood, and a bottom of musky vetiver and sandalwood.

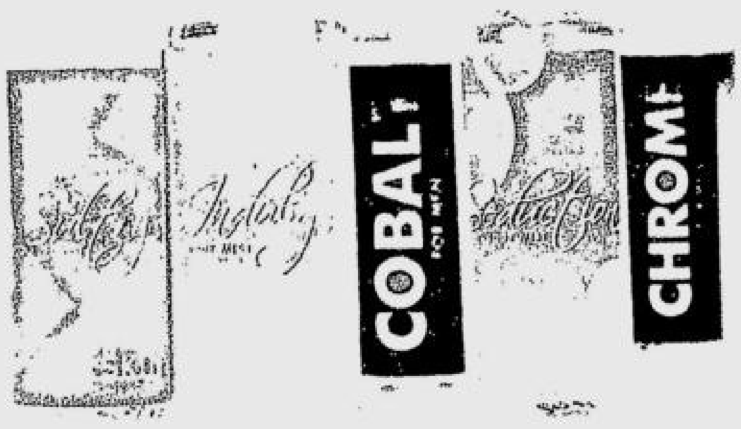
Indulge is a citrusy flower mix with top notes that are fresh and green with lemon leaves and lilac. The middle is full with fruity florals of green tea, osmanthus, peach blossom, red peony and wisteria. Notes of cedar, musk, and amber complete the mix.

For the metrosexual man, Skin_Private Joyce offers Cobalt with its bouquet of fern and spices. The top notes are bergamot, petit grain, cardamom ginger, and juniper berry, with a middle layer of lavender and tobacco flower. Dark chocolate and wengue wood linger at the bottom.

Chrome completes the collection. It starts with fresh orange, neroli and aldehydes. The middle notes consist of black pepper, amber, white musk, balsam, tonka bean and almond with heavy cedar and vetiver.

The scents are available in 22 Skin_Private Joyce outlets in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Tutuban Centermall, Robinsons Place Ermita, Metropoint, SM Southmall, SM City Bicutan, Isetann Recto, SM City Marilao, Farmers Plaza, Ever Gotesco Commonwealth, SM City Centerpoint, Robinsons Place Metroeast, Edsa Central, Ever Grand Central, SM City Pampanga, SM City Bacoor, Robinsons Place Angeles, SM City Dasmariñas, Festival Mall, NE Pacific Mall, SM City Lucena, and SM City Batangas.

The scents will soon be available at Landmark.


COBALT
FOR MEN
CHROME

SKIN MINI-MISTS. Find your favorite from among these five new fabulous Skin_Private Joyce scents: Sultry, Indulge, and Seduction for women, and Cobalt and Chrome for men

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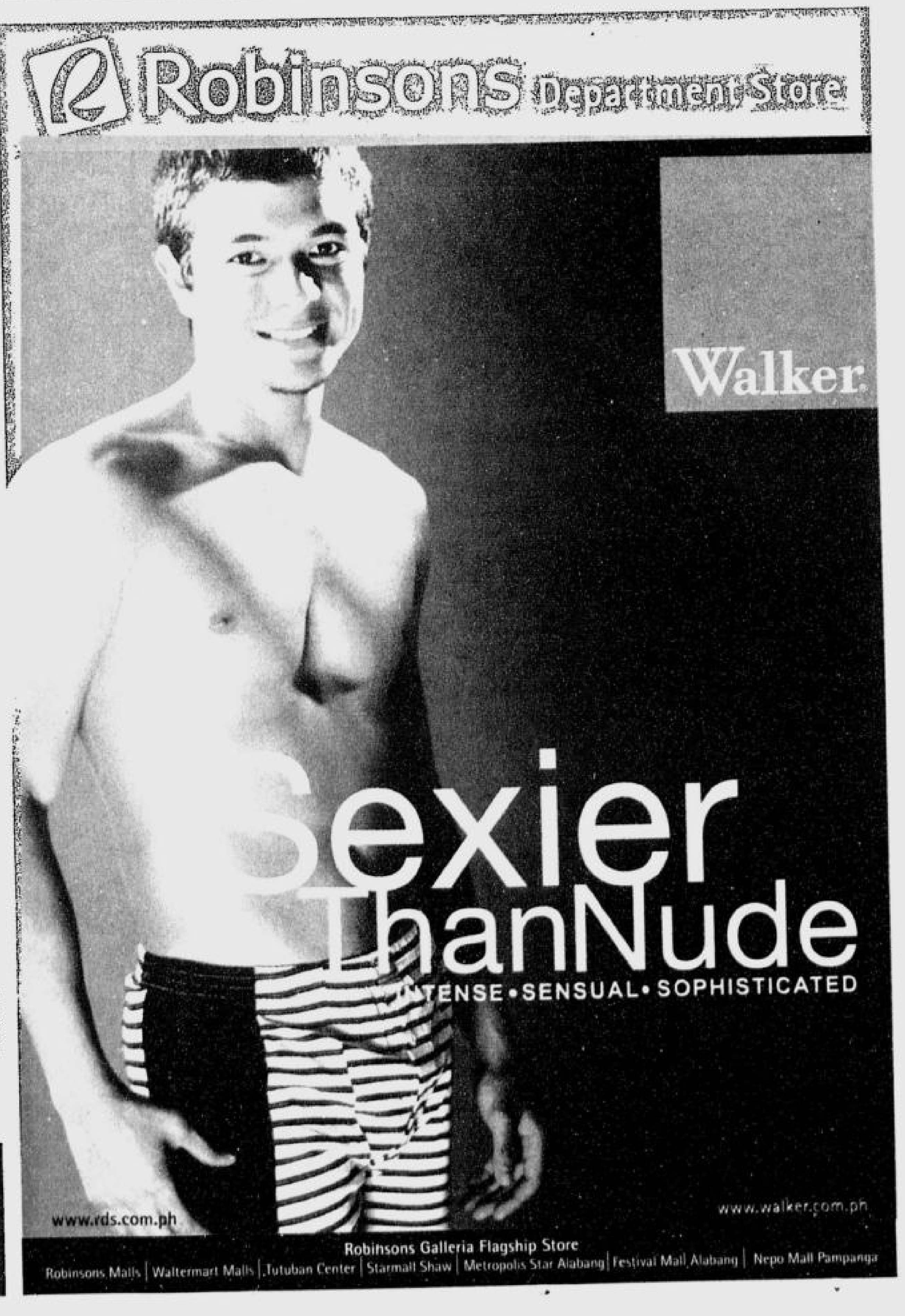
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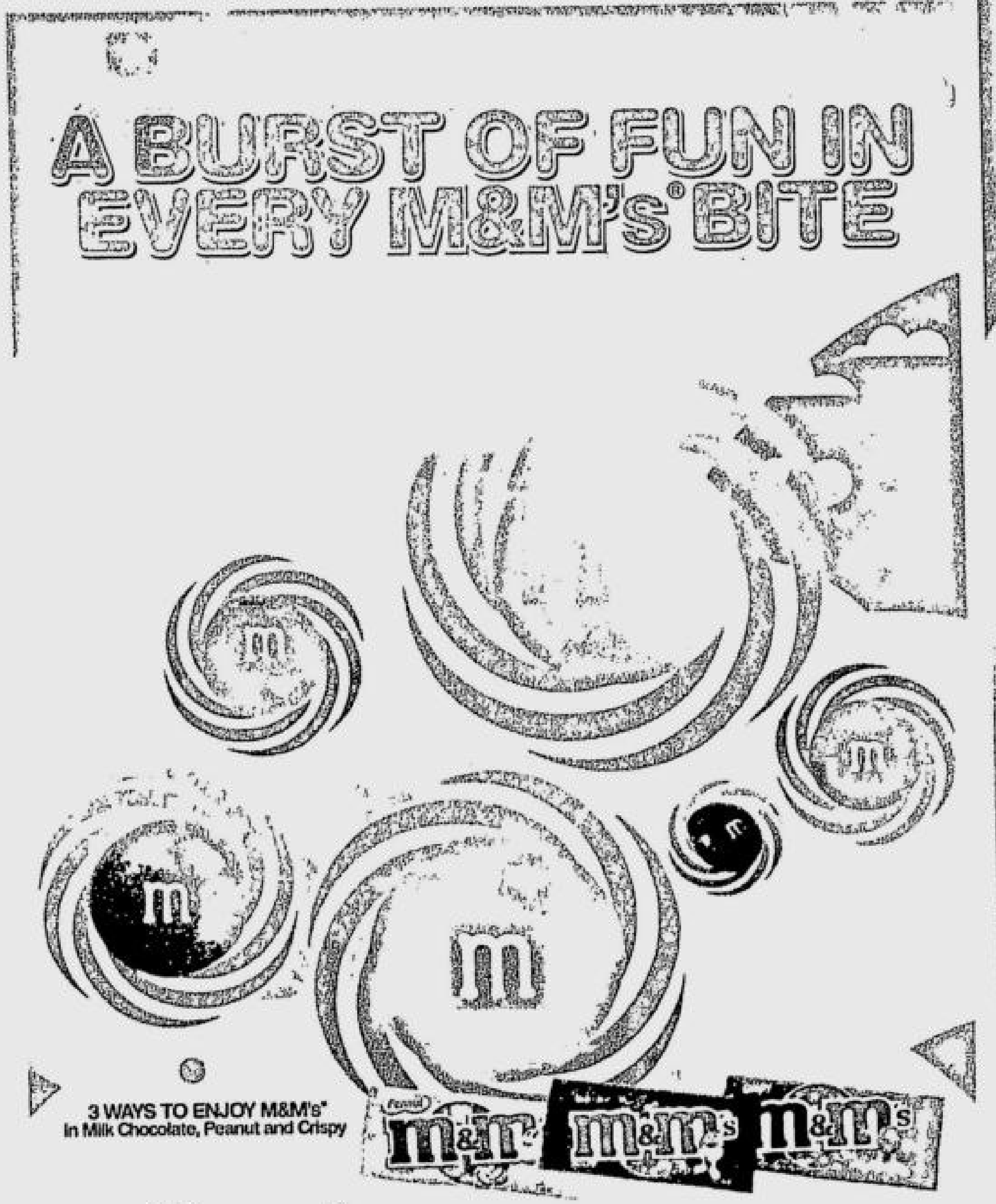
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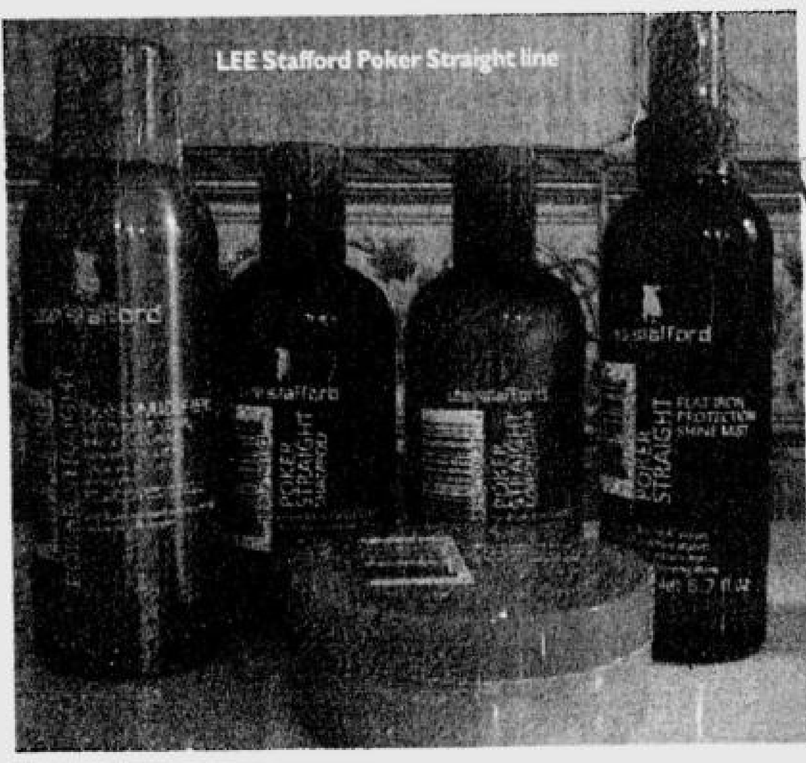
ESTÉE Lauder Toning Bust Serum



APIVITA Metamorphosis line

CAUDALIE
HUILE MINCEUR

CAUDALIE Slimming Treatment

Skincare and beauty items at a bargain

From page F1

salts/loofah fibers/green tea, serum with red pepper, black pepper and green tea; the body cream has bitter orange, ginger and green tea).

Comfort Zone Rapid Release is an anti-cellulite serum I have been using. I highly recommend the Hot Stones Massage for those who have aches and pains from fatigue and awkward sleeping positions.

Caudalie Huile Minceur slimming treatment is the most expensive of the lot, but gives the fastest results in checking cellulite, boosting water retention and shrinking thigh, belly, arms and buttocks diameter. I tell you, it's a French thing! They know how to combine wonderful scents and deliver top grade results.

Apivita and Comfort Zone are equally effective given more time, but they really just concentrate mostly on cellulite, not so much on water retention.

Tip: The indication that an anti-cellulite cream is working is frequent urination as toxins are expelled from your body as the creams rev up your circulation. Bear in mind that effects are temporary. As soon as you stop using the creams, the cellulite will creep back in. There is nothing like a series of treatments like Mesocellulite, Endermologie and Lipolight to keep cellulite off longer.

If you are prone, like me, to sore, swollen legs for whatever reason, head for Estée Lauder cooling Leg Gel (P1,850) and Phytomer leg gel, which is the colder of the two.

Of course, legs that are naturally heavy set will never be model-slender.

Those who are self-conscious about their breasts that are not as perky as they used to be should try Estée Lauder's Toning Bust Serum (P2,650). Apply on breasts up to collar bone area to tighten the skin and give it a subtle lift. This is not meant to replace a bust lift for those whose breasts are sagging in a major way.

Makeup: I stopped by the Awake counter because I am a big fan of its skincare and foundation. Makeup artist Victor Ortega of Emphasis was there and gave me an impromptu makeover. The makeup was 10-percent off and I realized how underrated Awake's eye shadow, blush and lipsticks were. Those who have light to medium skin tones will find that the colors of Awake will instantly flatter them. Awake is designed for Japanese women's porcelain skin, so Filipino women tend to avoid its color cosmetics because they are worried the colors wouldn't show. I highly recommend it for those with light to medium skin tones who are not very skilled in applying makeup and stroke with a heavy hand. These colors will look fresh and natural on you without the black-eyed effect and bleeding mouth look. The lipsticks are hydrating and sheer while the eye shadows go on very subtly. Those who want to experiment with color can now do so with courage!

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